

2010

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DIT: Students Union

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TOAST

the magazine of dit students' union
vol: 02 issue: 04 the 'elections' edition

opinion - exams - elected officers - fashion - elections - pictures - candidates info

VOTE
4 ME!

Seemed like a good idea...



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WELCOME & CONTENTS

WELCOME BACK!

Semester 2 arrived in a frenzy of activity. I hope you all enjoyed Rainbow Week and you should be well RE- FRESHed on what's going on and more importantly reminded of the services and supports here for you... Cutbacks or no cutbacks, the Students' Union will continue to deliver to all our members. If you are an Evening student in Aungier, Bolton, Cathal Brugha, Kevin St. or Mountjoy Sq. please note the SU office will be open until 8pm one evening per week. See ditsu.ie or local notices for details. So, drop in and see what we can do for you.

We celebrated the reopening of the gym and pool with a dip (page 12), because, while it may be just one thing to tick off a very long list of things to be sorted. It does show that with a lot of hard work and negotiation progress is being made to recover some of what seemed lost due to the cutbacks. Tracey, Jen and Sean have been working extremely hard with the Staff of DIT, the HEA & both Depts of Ed and Finance all year and will continue to do so on this thorny balancing act of dealing with inevitable cutbacks while maintaining an acceptable level of service to students.

Not an easy task – combine that with running campaigns and events, Governing Council and the Class Rep system, being a Director of DITSU Ltd, sitting on the Governing Body of DIT and a hundred other committees, fundraising and hell raising and that doesn't even sum up the job of the DITSU President and Vice Presidents. And yet...there are 7 hardy souls vying to take on the challenge for next year.

The SU Elections turnout has been growing over the last few years as has the number of candidates coming forward. This year is bigger again with all 3 Sabbatical positions contested and next year it will be vital you have strong representatives in the SU. So check out our Election Special starting on page 23, see ditsu.ie/suelections, come to the hustings or talk to a candidate when you see them canvassing.

This year, for the first time you will also be voting for the Class Rep Convenor on your site. Check out your options and vote for the people you want to take over when the 6 current convenors pass the baton in July.

Finally – just to add that the excitement is building and there are lots of plans afoot for RAG Week 2010 –page 14 so make sure you do one at least one thing in the week and help us raise and give lots of money for the CMRF. Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin, and the brilliant work they do there, needs no introduction from me. So mark March 08-12 in the diary, get stuck in, and let's show this town the real meaning of RAG – DIT Style.

MAIREAD

TOAST

the magazine of dit students' union

vol: 02 issue: 04 the 'elections' edition

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THE TOAST TEAM

[EDITOR] MAIREAD BUTLER
[SUB EDITOR] EVE DONNELLY
[DESIGN] EDDIE CORR

CONTACTS

[GENERAL] TOAST@DITSU.IE
[ADVERTISING] COMMUNICATIONS@DITSU.IE
[DESIGN] DESIGN@DITSU.IE

CONTRIBUTORS

HELEN O'SHEA & CIÚIN TRACEY

GET IN TOUCH

THIS IS YOUR MAGAZINE, AND WE WANT YOU TO BE INVOLVED. FANCY WRITING AN ARTICLE, TAKING SOME PHOTOS OR GENERALLY HELPING OUT? JUST DROP US A LINE [TOAST@DITSU.IE]. FEEL THE NEED TO REPLY TO ANY OF THE ISSUES RAISED? JUST MAIL US.

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WHAT'S THE CRAIC?

A couple of weeks into semester two and I can tell you we have a jam packed calendar full of all sorts! There are lots to be looking out for, after the much anticipated SHAG Week 2010 (sexual health awareness & guidance week) which took place last week.

Of course our famous **Raising and Giving Week** 2010 takes place on the 8th of March so please put that in your diary. This year we are raising the much needed funds for Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin. We have Freefall, 40ft Swim and Dive, Waxing and Shaving for Charity, events and promotions. It doesn't matter how crazy the idea if you think you can raise money for it then pop into your local office for a sponsorship card. If you have any ideas of what you want for Raising and Giving Week events wise please get in touch with us and we will see what we can do.

Gyms and Pool Open for Business!! Due to the flexible embargo that was adopted by the HEA on the 7th of January we were able to appoint staff to re-open our gyms and pool. I would like to thank all our students for signing petitions and getting involved in this much needed campaign!

Will Strikes affect our Education? Over the slow month of January there have been a number of discussions taking place at Government level with regards to National Unions and pay talks. It is my job to keep all of you informed as much as possible so please keep your eyes on my blog page and read the student emails that are sent to your account. We in the Students' Union will do everything in our power to make sure your education does not suffer if and when disputes are taking place.

Grangegorman, not so far away! Just before Christmas we had a student representative appointed to the Grangegorman Development Agency. His name is Bob Coggins and he will be feeding into Governing Council with up to date info on what is exactly happening at the high table. After numerous emails and letters on behalf of the student body a memo has gone to cabinet and the projected €2 million budget will be allocated once voted on. We will keep you posted!

Election Fever! The annual DIT Students' Union Elections are taking place over the coming weeks. Hustings (5min speeches per candidate on site at lunch time) are a great opportunity to ask the candidates what they are going to do for you! I get the feeling that the greater student body does not know entirely what the Students' Union does. An easy way of explaining it would be "The Apprentice" TV show! So if you think of the candidates as the apprentices and you are their boss. You ask them questions just like Bill Cullen. You have to ask yourself the question, would you hire them to represent you for a year on a full time salary? These people are paid through your capitation fee from the start of each year! Make sure you choose the right one for the right job!

So please vote in the elections - it is your vote and your voice, not to mention your money! Take 2 minutes to tick a box, that's how simple it is!

YOUR STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT
TRACEY

HELLO THERE!

Well...2010, a new decade, I suppose we're all well used to it by now, I still find myself going to write zero instead of one for the date though. Funny how it takes so long to break a routine, like remembering you're a year older when people ask just after your birthday! Maybe that's just me...cringe!

The new year has brought along a whole new semester underway, for some of you that means new modules, new years resolutions if there's anything left of them! I know I never last much longer than a few weeks. Some I don't even say out loud so I can deny I didn't bother when the February guilt sets in!

For many, a new year means a detox, January being the clean month, the healthy month, maybe the weight loss month or the fitness craze. Loads of you are probably still promising yourselves you'll keep the head down a bit more this semester than last so you don't go through the same exam panic as the January exams and I hope you do, because there's no way you'll fit in everything we have planned for you if you fall behind!

For those of you still waiting for results don't forget we're here to help if anything goes wrong. There are re-checks, appeals, and this year you can even get a re-mark of your paper. Happy days...

I guess the constant re-iterating of what we do can be a bore at times, but if you look at where we're coming from....you guys are paying for us to work for you. So the potentially annoying reminders are just to make sure you get your money's worth. SHAG week is over for this year but the message still remains...if you choose to have sex then remember

what that philosopher dude said about getting laid....."you're too ugly to be reproducing and probably too stupid to be keeping your STI's to yourself. Wear a condom." Offensive - Maybe. Good Advice - Definitely!!

The election buzz has started for this year, my replacement is out there campaigning somewhere as you read this, dperessing really, feels like I just started the job, the time really does fly working here. Best of luck to all those involved in the elections, it's a hectic and stressful few weeks but the process creates a feeling of pure adrenaline being injected right into the vein!

Get out there and vote, there's nothing to it really. Except that you can't complain if you don't vote. It's just not fair to not take part and still give out. People say it's your right to vote so you should. Screw that, if you vote you get an automatic entitlement to complain as much as you want after....that's the best thing about being a student, you can crib to the students' union about anything you feel the need to, and actually ask us to do something about it. Ask someone who isn't a student anymore...that release of frustration is something that won't always be available to you. So for whining sakes and to keep the campaigners from harrassing you all week! get to a polling station and tick/number those few little boxes.

Well that's my ramble done and dusted. Have a flick on to read all about Semester 2.

CHAT SOON
YOUR VICE PRESIDENT, JEN



HOWDY PARTNERS!

Right here we go, after Rainbow week/ Refresh week, & SHAG week we are now heading into the SU elections. Get out and vote folks – it's your way of making the hard choice of selecting the people that are going to represent you next year.

Next on the agenda is Art and design week, then my favorite week of the year, RAG week. Trust me- folks it's going to be EPIC, yes EPIC, we are talking to people at the moment booking the first "new" bungee, well a bungee without a rope really but its high, its mad and its going to be the fun day out that you all can enjoy. RAG swim is looking to be on the cards along with another first for DITSU - zorbing, yes we are trying to get you all into Grangegorman, to stuff you into a big balloon and roll ye down that hill, - man it's going to be fun!!!

You can pick up your sponsorship cards in any of the union offices and sign up for the week of fun. Planned this year is something that has never been tried before, yes the Friday stuff, it's going to be worth waiting for and saving your money for, that's all I can say!

Get involved and have a blast because it's going to really fun, have you signed up to the Ents team, want free nights out, want a free tshirt or two then email me asap as we are closing the places shortly. It have to the best free fun that anyone can tap into.

The Blood Transfusion service are coming to town for ye guys and I really hope ye all get involved and donate for the first time or if you have given before then it's going to be on your door step. See posters and ditsu.ie for more details.

Before I go dont forget to sign up of the Ents Team, we have ordered Ents Team Tshirts for all to take part in volunteering with our RAG charity and GIGs in Semester two. Its going to be the best thing since sliced bread.

That's the craic folks good luck in the second semester, enjoy the pool and gyms up and running again thanks to all your and our hard work with the HEA and DIT.

So remember our RAG charity is Our Lady's Childrens' Hospital, Crumlin so get involved.

YOUR VICE PRESIDENT,
SEANY

WHAT'S THE WORD:
bolton st.

Hello there!

Well guys welcome back to Semester 2 & welcome to the Apprentices who have been slaving away all on their own since January. Now we're back let's show them the atmosphere Bolton Street usually has!

If you have any suggestions for what YOU would like to see on stage during lunch hour I would love to know what ideas you have and I will see what I can do! So if you see me floating about the college just call me, even if it's just to say hello! I think that's it... If I forgot something I will add it on the Bolton Street Blog on the DITSU Page!

SUZANN xxx



WHAT'S THE WORD:
aungier st.

Hi there,

The madness of exams may be over, but the insanity of second semester has just begun! What a way to kick off with SHAG Week, am I right? Make sure the next time you see your VP Jen, to thank her for all the free johnnies you managed to nick!

Do things seem a little different since you came back? Notice the swanky new TV in the common area? How about the fact that, after consistent lobby by DITSU and students, the gyms & pool are back open? Don't say that we aren't nice to you guys...

I'm working hard with our LPIT to make sure you guys are kept up to date about what's happening and sorting out local events. If you have any questions, like always, call into myself, Sharon and Fiona and let us know what's on your mind. We're only too happy to help!

ERIC



WHAT'S THE WORD:
mountjoy sq.

Hello Mountjoy!

Hello - Mountjoy Square!!! In case you haven't noticed we have A 50 INCH TV IN THE CANTEEN. HUUZAH! It's been a long time coming and I want to thank Societies for organising it for us. We will be having regular movie nights again so look out for that.

Week 5 will be Art & Design Week. This is a week where we in Mountjoy normally have a mini exhibition of our work. Always great fun... but this year, we have to up our game. As all the other sites are submitting work too. The competition is harder, so so start thinking now and get to working. More info and details soon but just keep it in mind...

Finally before I go, if any of ye out there are on Facebook, join the DITSU facebook page and The DIT Mountjoy Sq and Portland Row page. Be great to keep in contact and see whats going on in your site.

JON



WHAT'S THE WORD:
rathmines.

Long time no chats. Hope the exams went well (if they didn't it's not the end of the world though as we have our 'what if' campaign, on ditsu.ie).

I know I had a great time here in Rathmines before Christmas almost decapitating 20 students with the piñata attempts and some students getting lock jaw in the all you can eat contest. And now there's fun for all the family in the canteen, since Santy brought loads of games.

Unlike most of DIT, we music and drama students have been back since early January rehearsing like nobody's business for the up and coming shows. I'd like to congratulate all of you in advance for all the hard work and here's hoping we break a leg or two.

LORNA x



WHAT'S THE WORD:
kevin st.

Hi All!

Welcome to one of the most packed Semester 2 I have seen in years (and I have been around a while!!)

This semester we will be running more events on site, so if you have any ideas, give me an email (convenor, kst@ditsu.ie), drop into the office, or grab me as you see me dashing about in the halls.

As any science students know, we are supposed to have our review week in the last week of this semester, like we did last semester. This is a trial for this year, and will be reviewed at the end of this semester. If you think it's a brilliant / good / bad / woeful idea, let us know, so we can pass the feedback to the DIT. Just drop me or Jen (vpacademic@ditsu.ie) an email, even just a one-liner to let us know how you feel.

GRAHAM



WHAT'S THE WORD:
cathal brughá st.

Howdy Folks,

I'm thinking that since this is the first TOAST of the year, how about talking about new year's resolutions? Have you made any?

This also got me thinking about what I could do differently this year. Going to class more often would be a good start. Maybe doing a little study throughout the



year and not leaving everything until the night before the exams like I did last semester would be beneficial. But the problem is someone once told me that resolutions should be realistic and achievable so that's those two gone.

Now then, I'm all out of ideas so I think I'm done here. To sign off, I shall bid you good morning and if I don't see you, good afternoon, good evening and good night.

NATHAN :)

CRUMBS - TASTY NEWS TID-BITS

TEA: TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Presidents Teaching Excellence Awards are DIT's way of recognising and rewarding the best lecturers out there. It's a simple enough process for you guys, the nominations process will start on February 8th with a notification email and all you have to do is fill in the survey before February 26th.

We've worked hard with DIT to make sure students get a say in this, after all ye're the ones being taught! There are some savage lecturers across DIT but we can't know who they are unless you tell us. I sat on the panel with 4 others choosing last years winner and he was the guy with the highest number of student nominations. It's not always clear to us all, but DIT do care about our opinions, so fill out the form, it won't take you long and it's nice to be nice.

Show you appreciate the effort and give that exceptional lecturer a compliment.

GET READY: IT'S THE E TEAM!

The Events Team is a team of students, interested in getting involved and helping out in any of a multitude of ways, some of which are listed below and some of which you'll tell us or will be dealt to us through divine inspiration along the way.

Send us an email [events@ditsu.ie] and let us know what you're up for getting involved in and which site you're based on.

- Helping organise / plan / run events on your site to make fun happen and create an atmosphere
- Helping out at DITSU events
- RAG Week - LOADS to do during RAG Week
- Promoting events - running around all happy and smiley with flyers or tickets etc.
- And much much more.

AND if that wasn't enough, would you check out the wicked T shirts we've had made for ye... seriously, how can you resist?

DIT STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

'Fed up doing assessments? Then why not assess us! DIT Campus Life and the Retention Office, with the assistance of DITSU are asking you to take part in the DIT Student Satisfaction Survey 2010. This major survey will ask all DIT students about their Student Experience here at DIT.

The questions cover all areas that make up the student experience, like the library; sports; catering; academic feedback; administration; student support services; transport.

The survey takes less than 10 minutes to fill out- and as we are aware that time is valuable, every student who completes the survey will be entered into a draw for a top prize of an Apple iPhone and five €100 cash prizes. The draw will take place after the survey closes. Students can access more information about this survey and a link to the survey at /www.dit.ie/life. The survey is currently underway so please get involved and tell us what you think about the DIT Student experience!

CARS: POSTER COMPETITION

CARS (College Awareness of Road Safety) promotion and showcase - April 19th - 23rd

Poster competition - Design a poster for this Road Safety campaign and win an amazing prize!

More details at www.ditsu.ie
DIT Students' Union - DIT BAM Society - DIT Students Learning With Communities

SAVE A LIFE: DONATE BLOOD

The IBTS Bloodmobile will be in DIT Aungier Street on Thursday 25th February from 11.00am - 2.15pm.

This is your chance to save a life. Give blood.

GET DOWN AND DIRTY
on Saturday, 27th February 2010
and join in the fun!

IRELAND'S FIRST MUD-RUN
in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Ireland

Produce supported by **Persil**
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A unique and exciting challenge that will leave you dirty, muddy and smiling!

To take part you will need to raise a minimum of €150, which goes to MS Ireland to help provide much needed services for over 7000 people with Multiple Sclerosis in Ireland.

Register today by visiting
www.ms-society.ie
www.mudrun.ie

Takes place at 11am on
Saturday, 27th February 2010 at
Quest at Mondello Park,
Naas, Co Kildare.

MS Ireland
THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4
E-mail: mudrun@ms-society.ie
Web: www.ms-society.ie

MS IRELAND: FUN RUN

Why not get down and dirty to raise some much needed cash for MS Ireland? All you need to do is take part in Ireland's first ever Mud:Run.

It takes place on Saturday 27th Feb. More details are available at mudrun.ie

FIT 2 GO: BACK IN BUSINESS!

We are delighted to announce that the Fit 2 Go facility has re-opened its doors. Now is the time to make good on those new year resolutions and make use of the state of the art gym and pool facilities.

Details of the membership packages can be found below and, as always, are easy on the pocket.

Membership packages will be available for purchase from **Monday 15th February 2010**

	Student - All Inclusive	3 months - €45	6 months - €80
fit	Staff - All Inclusive	3 months - €60	6 months - €105
2	Student - Pool Only	3 months - €35	6 months - €60
go	Staff - Pool Only	3 months - €50	6 months - €80

Join on line at www.ditsports.ie
or call into Fit2Go Club facility
for further details.

Fit2Go Club at DIT Kevin Street is NOW OPEN

Fit2Go Club at DIT Bolton Street will RE-OPEN ON Monday 15th February 2010

So to find out more about this or any other sports and clubs information check our website:
www.ditsports.ie

2010 DUBLIN EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

ADVICE: EXAMS

The SU provides information on the rules and regulations that govern exam/assessments etc as set out in the General Assessment Regulations.

Don't worry if you're unsure of how these apply to you. We're here to give advice with any queries about the procedures and to help you find the best way out of any difficulties with exams and assessments.

Watch out for 'What If..' posters & leaflets and lots of additional information on www.ditsu.ie

What if...
Things go wrong...

I THINK MY EXAM MARKS ARE WRONG?

If you think that the marks you have received in your exam/assessments are wrong you can get the marks Rechecked. The purpose of a Recheck is to make sure that there are no errors in the adding up of the marks and that the results have been recorded accurately.

Firstly you should contact the lecturer in question to discuss the marks. You are entitled to get detailed, constructive feedback on EVERY assessment so if you have a chat with them it may clarify the situation for you. **If you still have doubts you can submit the Re-check form within 3 working days of the publication of results on-line or on the Exams Noticeboard** – not when you receive them in the post as it will probably be too late then.

Rechecks cost €15 per module and is fully refundable if errors are found. You can get the form (A/Rfrom1) from the Exam1 Office download it from www.dit.ie/media/documents/academicregistrar/20092010/recheck_form_0910.pdf and submit it along with the fee. The Students' Union will be happy to advise you with the form.

Dublin Institute of Technology

DATE: COURSE AND YEAR No.: CANDIDATE EXAM No.:

Subject: Section:

NOTE: In your own interest, consider this cover very carefully and follow the instructions below very carefully.

THIS ANSWER BOOK, WHETHER USED OR NOT, IS THE PROPERTY OF THE INSTITUTE.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Begin each answer on a new page. Please write on both sides of the paper.
2. Please write the number of the question you are answering on the left margin of the first page of your answer.
3. Your name should not appear anywhere in the answer book. Rough work is to be included in the answer book and crossed out or identified as such.
4. Please read carefully the instructions on the cover of the Examination Paper.
5. If you have used additional answer books, please insert them inside the cover of this book.
6. In the boxes below please tick the numbers of the questions you attempted.

Question Number	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Marks
Try it attempted											
Marks awarded (in maximum of 100)											

7. It is the responsibility of the candidate to submit all scripts, unused answer books, and other materials, provided by the invigilator before leaving the Examination Hall. Candidates may not remove from the Examination Hall any item provided by the Institute other than the examination question papers except where the examination paper forms part of the answer.

Note: Legibility, accuracy and clarity of expression are very important in your answers.

I HAVE DISCUSSED MY MARKS WITH THE LECTURER AND I STILL BELIEVE THAT THE MARKS ARE WRONG?

This year for the first time any student may apply to have assessments Re-marked.

If you believe that the marks you have received were wrong **you must contact the lecturer who corrected the exam paper/assessment immediately to discuss the marks in detail.** Following this if you are still concerned with the marks you can have the exam paper / assessment Re-marked. This costs €15 per module and you have 5 working days from the date the results are published on-line or on the Exams Noticeboard – not when you receive them in the post.

You can get the form (A/Rfrom2) from the Exam1 Office or download it from www.dit.ie/media/documents/academicregistrar/20092010/remark_form_0910.pdf and submit it along with the fee. The Students' Union will be happy to advise you with the process.

MR. & MS. HARASSMENT?



DIT WILL NOT TOLERATE
BULLYING, HARASSMENT OR
ANY LACK OF RESPECT.

THERE WILL BE
SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

<http://dit.ie/media/documents/campuslife/DisciplinaryProceduresMay09.pdf>



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FASHION

street chic

Photography: Cluin Tracey
Model: Holly Cullen
All featured clothes from WaWa, Aungier Street.



Grey Jumper: €5
Grey Top: €4
Black Top: €2
Necklace: €10
Belt: €2

Grey Top: €4
Necklace: €10
Debs Skirt: €8
Belt: €2



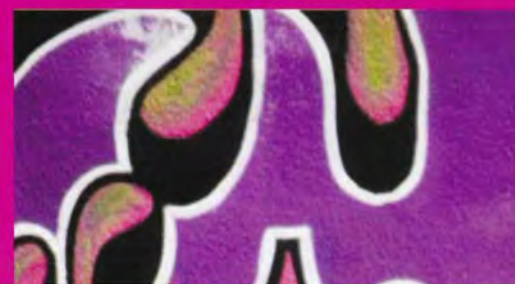
Jumper: €6
Skirt: €4
Necklace: €3
Boots: Models Own



Dress: €25



Pink Top: €4
Trousers: €7
Necklace: €10
Sneakers: €2
Boots & Coat: Models Own





Did you pick up your 'Homophobia Is Gay' tee during Rainbow Week?



DIT Dance Soc entertain the masses during Christmas Mayhem



The National launch of USI SHAG Week took place in Bolton St.



Suzann and Seona get kitted out for SHAG Week.



DIT staff and students celebrate the reopening of the FIT 2 GO facility with a quick dip...



THE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL & RESEARCH FOUNDATION
OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, CRUMLIN

I ♥ RAG

"Fancy a roll down a hill in a big balloon? Or jumping from a crane into a large net? Or going for a swim at the 40 ft? Get your sponsorship forms in your SU office. It's the only way you can get to jump from the highest thing in DIT since the Viagra truck crashed into Bolton street last year!

Raise money and have a blast for RAG WEEK 2010 for Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. Our target is €20,000, so please help!"

seany



WHAT: RAG WEEK

WHERE: On-Site & Various Venues

WHEN: 8-12 March

WHY: All proceeds going to Our Lady's Children's Hospital.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS AND DOWNWARDS (IT MAKES SENSE!) FOR RAG WEEK 2010...

We're not going to write about all the standard events that will be returning this RAG Week. What we WILL do here is give you a run down of the new things coming up in 2010. Enjoy... and for those of you looking for the highlights, the colour blue is your friend!

Year on year we have been organising a Bungee Jump and year on year you line up to throw yourselves from the great height so, we thought, how can we step things up? What is better than the big crane with the big long bungee cord? Well, it's obvious isn't it? The big crane MINUS the big long bungee cord. Clearly.

So, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, YOUR Students' Union present, for your plummeting pleasure, for the very first time ever in Ireland, **SCAD Freefall!!!** SCAD stands for Suspended Catch Air Device and is, simply put, a freefall from 150feet onto a giant net suspended above the ground. There's a significant amount of science behind the whole system that allows you to experience pure freefall

for around 3 seconds. No bungee cord; just a big net for you to land on. Now, granted, you'll experience g forces of around 4 Gs but we're reliably informed that the landing is a soft one!

As for safety, the quote from the SCAD people is that 'it's safe enough for your granny!' Now... I don't know about YOUR granny, but mine is a very safety conscious lady. We would never put on anything that wasn't 100% safe and the people who run these things are professionals and are all about the safety. So. There you go. That's the story. This year, instead of getting sponsored for a bungee jump you'll be getting sponsored for a freefall!

Sponsorship cards are available now, from your local Students' Union office and the minimum amount will be €100 as usual. As always, feel free not to stop at raising €100. The record from last year stands at around €1400 for one bungee jump. Apologies for resurrecting the memory, as I'm sure any of ye who witnessed it have long since banished it from your consciousness, but dearest Eamon raised the

€1400 last year and did the bungee all but nekkid with some very poignant messages written on his buttocks. <sigh> But, hey, it was all for charity so it's a good, good thing! Course it is...

The freefall is not the only new departure for RAG Week 2010. Following swiftly in its rather sizeable footsteps will be DIT students going **Zorbing!** Ya... ya... I hear ya... Question the first - What is Zorbing? Well, Zorbing is that thing where you climb into the big ball and roll down the hill.

Now, question the second - where are we gonna do Zorbing in DIT? We will, in fact, be transporting ourselves into the not too distant future and shall Zorb in Grangegorman, the future site of DIT. It's not far away, it has a load of green space and a hill and we may even put on a bus or two to get ye there if ye are that lazy. It'll be well worth it, we assure you! Zorbing will be fun. It'll cost ya a mere couple of quid and the mere couple of quid will go straight to charity so you'll get the warm fuzzy feeling. And that rocks.

There'll be a **RAG Mag** out before RAG Week which will give ye the lowdown on what's going on so keep an eye out for that hitting the streets. Our new Events Team will be thrusting them into your awaiting grubby paws.

Die Hard Day is a concept we're working on currently as a solid way to round the week off for all those who decide to go at the week full force! 'Go Hard or go Home', that's what we say.

We'll have the nice people from 3 Ireland in during the week around the sites and they'll be bringing a gazebo, some nice **flat screen TVs** and a couple of **Wiis** for you all to play with!

This year we're returning to a successful formula from a few RAG Week's back where we're gonna take a shot at **bridging the gap** between college time and the night time events. We call that evening time and we'll be putting on some entertainment in a couple of Dublin's finer public houses to get ye all warmed up. And yes, we know it's not strictly speaking a NEW departure but still, it deserved a mention.

TOAST 3 HAD DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2ND SEMESTER. IF YOU DIDN'T CATCH IT AT THE TIME THEN CHECK THE CALENDAR AT YOUR LOCAL STUDENTS' UNION OFFICE FOR FEBRUARY. THE TREES WON'T THANK US FOR PRINTING THE SAME INFO AGAIN HERE IS THE LATEST CONFIRMED LINE UP OF MADNESS TO GET US THROUGH TO RAG.

DJ Woody

DJ Woody will be bringing the house down in Twisted Pepper on **Tuesday 23rd March**. It's hard to describe what DJ Woody does. Google him on the internet machine and you'll see what we mean. Or, just head to myspace.com/woodymadera. It'll save you time with the Googling. If you like your music pounding and your dancefloor heaving then you're gonna wanna be there. We're hosting the Dublin leg of his 'Turntables in Technicolour' AV Tour. It's a bit of a coup so we're a little bit happy with ourselves. DJ Yoda loves this guy and we love DJ Yoda so, by proxy, we have to love DJ Woody. Even if we didn't have to love him by proxy though, we'd love him anyway! Ya we would. And so will you! You know who else we love? The Bodytonic crew in Twisted Pepper, that's who. They've arranged some extremely student-friendly drinks prices for you all so the night should be reasonably easy on your pocket too. Tickets will be on sale in your local Students' Union office, usual story, and will be the **not-so-grand total of €5** in line with our ongoing commitment to bring you the best nights out for the best price out there. Keep your eyes peeled for the posters.

Best Of The Rest

That's what's confirmed... by the time you're reading this we hope to have added a couple more gigs in before RAG Week... I promised myself I wouldn't mention what we're working on but I find it hard to keep promises to myself... I'm getting help with that though. So... we're looking at doing a gig on Sunday 21st February (yes, it's a Sunday - shocking, I know!) to kick off the DITSU Elections in style... we're also hoping to squeeze in a 90s night gig with the Smash Hits 90s Band doing their thing. The Class Reps loved them at Class Rep Training. The 1st Years loved them at the Freshers Ball. We reckon the rest of you guys will love them even more. We're working on the best venue for that one. As the man says, keep an eye out for the posters to appear if these ones come together!

YOU SAID...

...WE DID

THE STUDENTS' UNION OFFICERS AND STAFF ARE DEDICATED TO ENSURING THAT ALL STUDENTS HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE IN DIT AND THAT ANY PROBLEMS OR ISSUES THAT ARISE ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE RELEVANT PERSON / DEPARTMENT IN THE COLLEGE AND RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

It's been a busy six months!

Financial queries at 234 are the highest category, reflecting the effects of the national economic situation on student life. Student annoyance at the impact of the Staff Embargo on classes, labs and facilities is captured in two categories – Quality Assurance and Class Issues totalling 118 so far and DIT Facilities problems at 67. Hopefully these problems will not recur in Semester 2 but if they do we will be on the case straight away! Tracey the President and Sean the Vice President have been centrally involved in finding solutions to these issues in particular. Finally there is the usual 'spike' in the number of Exams and Assessments issues in September at Repeat exams time.

So if you or your Class have any issues/queries about anything you can contact us and we will try to get it sorted out. Remember it's your Union; we're here to help and advise. All you have to do is ask!

YOU SAID YOU WANTED THE GYMS AND SWIMMING POOL BACK OPEN...

FROM THE 1ST OF FEBRUARY 2010 THE GYMS AND SWIMMING POOL ARE DUE TO OPEN THEIR DOORS AGAIN FOR BUSINESS!

YOU SAID EVENTS WERE TOO EXPENSIVE FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND IN DUBLIN CITY CENTRE...

WE HAVE REDUCED THE COST OF ALL OUR EVENTS TO €5. WE ARE AWARE STUDENTS ARE SHORT ON CASH AT THE MOMENT!

YOU SAID YOU WANTED MORE OF A PRODUCT RANGE IN YOUR LOCAL SU SHOPS...

WE HAVE NOW MORE PRODUCTS AT STUDENT FRIENDLY PRICES IN ALL SU SHOPS ON OUR MAIN FIVE SITES.

YOU SAID €200 WAS TOO MUCH TO PAY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL REPEAT EXAMS...

AFTER LOBBYING DIT WE HAVE MANAGED TO BRING THE COST OF SUPPLEMENTAL REPEAT EXAMS BACK TO €60. (SUPPLEMENTAL REPEATS = REPEATING IN SEPTEMBER TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT YEAR)

YOU SAID YOU WANTED A TV AND A SOFA TO CHILL OUT AND RELAX WHEN ON A BREAK...

WE DELIVERED A TV TO THE BUILDING AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT AND ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF A SOFA.

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE ABLE TO GET YOUR ASSESSMENTS 'RE-MARKED'...

WE SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIED DIT TO INCLUDE THIS IN THE NEW GENERAL ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS AND THIS OPTION IS NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS AND COSTS €15 PER MODULE

YOU SAID YOU WANTED A COFFEE MACHINE IN CATHAL BRUGHA STREET...

THE INSOMNIA COFFEE & TEA MACHINE CAN NOW BE FOUND IN THE SU SHOP - GROUND FLOOR OF THE MARLBOROUGH ST. BUILDING!

YOU SAID YOU WANTED A GRINDS FILE...

WE NOW HAVE A DIT GRINDS FILE WITH PAST AND PRESENT DIT STUDENTS OFFERING GRINDS IN ALL SUBJECTS. IT CAN BE FOUND ON DITSU.IE

YOU SAID YOU DID NOT WANT CLASSES IN THE GLEESON HALL THEATRE...

WE HAVE MADE SURE THAT CLASSES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN GLEESON HALL; THIS THEATRE WILL ONLY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

YOU SAID THERE WERE NO SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU AS COLLEGE OFFICES CLOSE THEIR DOORS AT 5...

WE IN THE STUDENTS UNION NOW OPEN LATE ONE NIGHT A WEEK, BOLTON ST, CATHAL BRUGHA ST, KEVIN ST, MOUNT JOY SQUARE AND AUNGIER STREET) TO MAKE SURE YOUR NEEDS ARE LOOKED AFTER.

YOU SAID OUR WEB SITE WAS HARD TO NAVIGATE AND TO FIND INFORMATION...

WE ARE CONSTANTLY UPDATING AND WORKING ON OUR WEBSITE SO KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR NEW INTERACTIVE FORUMS AND UP TO DATE RELEVANT INFORMATION AT THE CLICK OF A BUTTON.

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO KNOW WHAT YOUR ELECTED OFFICERS WERE DOING FOR YOU...

YOU CAN READ OUR UPDATED BLOGS ON DITSU.IE FOR ALL THE INFORMATION AND WORK WE ARE CARRYING OUT ON A WEEKLY BASIS FOR THE BETTER OF THE STUDENT BODY.

YOU SAID YOU WANTED A SECOND HAND BOOK SHOP...

THERE IS NOW AN ONLINE SECOND HAND BOOK FOR ALL DIT STUDENTS TO SELL AND BUY COURSE BOOKS AT SECOND HAND PRICES ON DITSU.IE

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO USE THE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT FUND (€10 MILLION) FOR CURRENT FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS...

AS OF OCTOBER 2009 THE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT FUND CAN BE APPLIED FOR BY THE GREATER STUDENT BODY TO UPGRADE AND IMPROVE STUDENT FACILITIES THROUGH STUDENTS, SPORTS, RECREATION AND SUPPORT COUNCIL.

shag week

whoever you like, love safer sex...



Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance - SHAG WEEK IS OVER BUT THE MESSAGE IS THE SAME: If you choose to have sex protect yourself!

Apart from all the fun, the games, the messing, the paint and of course the free stuff...namely condoms! The week had a serious message for all of you... If you choose to have sex protect yourself, wear a condom. I know sometimes you're out late, have a few beers and just can't be arsed with the condom, but think of what you're risking.....

Check out the advice here from the DIT Medical Centre and use their service. You can contact the Medical Centre any time to book yourself in for a STI Screening. A typical screen usually lasts for about 20 minutes.

YOUR SCREEN INVOLVES:

1. A chat with the nurse or doctor to obtain information about any relevant medical history, allergies, your previous sexual history (number of partners etc.), about any signs or symptoms and discuss any concerns you may have.
2. Blood samples will be taken for HIV, Hepatitis B and Syphilis. If you had an episode of unprotected sexual intercourse within the last 12 weeks with a new partner you will be asked to return for another blood test because HIV antibodies may take up to 12 weeks to be detectable in the blood.

Note sometimes the result of a HIV test can be inconclusive; in this case a further sample will be required.

3. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

FEMALE EXAMINATION:

- Your examination cannot be carried out during your period.
- A speculum will be inserted in the vaginal area to take swabs from the vagina and neck of the womb (cervix). These will test for Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Trichomonas Vaginalis, Bacterial Vaginosis, Candida (Thrush). You may find this examination uncomfortable but it should not be painful. It only takes a couple of minutes.
- You will also be examined for presence of genital warts.
- An STI screen is not a Smear Test. A smear test is usually advised for women over 25 years.

MALE EXAMINATION

- A tiny swab will be taken from the tip of the penis (urethra) to test for infections including Non-specific Urethritis, Gonorrhoea, and Candida (Thrush)
- A urine sample will be taken to test for Chlamydia; please do not pass urine for at least 1 hour prior to your appointment time.
- A routine testicular examination will be carried out by the doctor and instruction will be given on how to do this yourself. Testicular cancer is not related to STI's but is common in young men.
- Men who have sex with men will also have a small swab taken from the throat and rectum (back passage)

Screening for Herpes and Genital Warts.

It is not possible to screen for herpes and genital warts. You will be examined for the presence of both of the above at your appointment in the clinic. However, if no evidence is found, this does NOT mean that you are not a carrier of these. Approx 1 in ten people who are sexually active carries the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus). Up to 70% of herpes is spread without signs or symptoms. Therefore it could be dormant in your system at time of examination and you may develop either at a later stage. The above STI's are spread by skin to skin contact, therefore even if you use condoms all the time you will not fully protect yourself from either of the above.

Condom use, will however help protect you from all other STI's including HIV. The only way to reduce your risk of catching the wart or herpes virus is to limit your number of partners.

STI's are spread through oral, vaginal and anal sex and sharing sex toys.

Abstinence / mutually monogamous relationships with uninfected person are the only way of avoiding an STI.

CONDOMS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE YOUR RISK OF CATCHING AN STI. HAVING UNPROTECTED INTERCOURSE ONCE WILL EXPOSE YOU TO STI'S SO PROTECT YOURSELF AND ALWAYS USE CONDOMS.

RESULTS

Results are given on return appointment only, 2 weeks after the physical examination. You will be given an appointment for this in Aungier Street. It is our current policy clinic results are not issued by telephone.

Helpful websites

- www.yoursexualhealth.ie/your-sexual-health
- www.patient.co.uk/pils.asp (search under alphabetical listings e.g. Chlamydia in women)
- www.positiveoptions.ie
- www.thinkcontraception.ie/
- www.belongto.org/ (Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Young People in Ireland)
- www.rainbow-project.org/

**DIT STUDENT HEALTH CENTRE
ROOM 2051, 2ND FLOOR,
DIT AUNGIER STREET
PHONE 402 3051**

NOTE:

THERE IS A CHARGE OF 15 EURO FOR SCREENING, IN THE CASE OF CANCELLATION THIS MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IF 24 HOURS NOTICE IS GIVEN.





This is the time of year that everyone thinks about resolutions. Well think about this if you always do the same thing you will always get the same results!

Try to make some changes this year.

Have a quick gander at the panels to the right of this page to see how making a small change can have big consequences. So if you are one of the lucky people to actually have a part time job earning €8.65 per hour you would need to work, 120 hrs for the wine, 300 hours to enjoy all that beer, and 356 hours to smoke 20 cigs per day.

Apart from the financial cost think of your health too. Call up to one of the Health Centres to speak to a doctor or nurse for advice on how to quit.

By not using a condom ONCE you are exposing yourself to the risks of HIV, Hepatitis B, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, and the risk of an unwanted pregnancy. Do you really want to become a mother / father while in the middle of your college studies? (STI clinic available in the DIT Student Health Centre if you have had an episode of unprotected sex)

So why not think of changing one thing for the coming year? You can loose weight, become healthier, find it much easier to concentrate by drinking less alcohol and not feeling TIRED ALL THE TIME and if you put that money aside that you would have used to drink/ smoke look how much money you would have in your pocket this time next year! Enough to go on a FAB holiday. And after all your hard work in college YOU DESERVE IT!

Health tips courtesy of the DIT Health Centre.

Weight

If you lose a pound a week you can loose approx. 4 stone in a year! Check out www.weightwatchers.ie/ call up to one of the Student Health Centres in Aungier Street/ Linen Hall and to speak to a nurse or doctor for advice about how to lose weight safely.



Cigarettes

If you smoke 10 cigarettes per day, at current prices of €8.45 for a packet of 20, it will cost you €1,542 euro in a year, that means if you smoke 20 cigarettes per day it will cost you a staggering €3,084 per year, imagine what you could do with that money if you had stopped this time last year!



Alcohol

If you currently drink 10 pints of beer per week at a cost of 5 euro per pint it will cost you €2,600 by this time next year! And if you currently drink 2 bottles of wine per week at a cost of 10 euro per bottle it will cost you €1,040 in a year



eat yourself healthy

Our resident foodie Helen takes you through some healthy food options. Yum...



Feeling poorly? Horrible headache, runny nose, sore throat, fever, tired, moody and miserable? Well, here's some good news. You can eat your way back to health. All you need to do is eat foods which are rich in immune boosting vitamins and minerals, and avoid foods which will make you feel worse. Simple!

'But which vitamins and minerals do we need and what foods should we avoid?' I hear you ask (with wide-eyed enthusiasm). I'll begin by telling you about what you need.

I'm sure you've heard about Vitamin C. This super vitamin is found in citrus fruits, potatoes, blackcurrants, parsley, red peppers, guavas, kiwis and broccoli amongst other fruit and vegetables. It benefits us by acting as an anti-oxidant (in other words, it gets rid of nasty toxins from our bodies) and generally helps our immune systems.

Next on my list is the mineral Zinc. Found in cashew nuts, baked beans, oysters, beef shanks and in many other foods, it benefits us by acting as an immune booster and healer in our bodies.

The mineral Selenium, which like Vitamin C is high in antioxidants, can be found in brazil-nuts, tuna whole-grains, beef... Again, this is very beneficial in improving the health of all who feel under the weather. Next, Co-enzyme Q-10, found primarily in meat and fish and B Vitamins, found in oatmeal, cereals and lots of other foods, are also full of antioxidants.

Finally, a tip for you when cooking is to use lots of garlic which is a natural anti-viral and to use as much onion as you can as it produces 'killer' cells which

eats up nasty viruses and bacteria in your body. It is important to note that where possible, all vitamins and minerals are better taken as part of your diet rather than as supplements. This is because many vitamins and minerals need other vitamins and minerals to work (a partnership if you will) e.g. Vitamin C needs iron to work properly within the body. Also, food travels more slowly than supplements through your body, giving your body time to really utilise all of the vitamins and minerals before shooting it out the other end.

Now, let's get to what you need to avoid. Chocolate, coffee, alcohol and sugary things. No wonder we all get sick. I can guarantee you though, that avoiding these, especially when you're feeling 'yucky' will get you better in no time.

Armed with all of this useful information, you can create meals which will heal your tired body. You can 'eat yourself healthy'! For breakfast try porridge with honey (a super anti-bacterial) and an orange juice, banana and frozen berry smoothie (just put it all in a blender). For lunch have a vegetable soup (heavy on the onion) and for snacks you could munch on some cashew nuts or brazil-nuts. And for dinner why not try the below recipe for Grilled Tuna with Honey Mustard Marinade. Enjoy!

Grilled Tuna w/ Honey Mustard Marinade [Serves 3/4, preparation time 20 mins]

Ingredients:

- 1 to 1 1/2 pounds tuna medallions or steaks
- 2 tablespoons dijon honey mustard
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar or white vinegar

Method

1. About 1 to 2 hours before grilling, place tuna in a glass bowl.
2. Combine marinade ingredients; pour over tuna and turn to make sure all pieces are well coated.
3. Cover the bowl with cling film and refrigerate until it's time to grill.
4. Grill for about 5 to 7 minutes, or until a bit pink in the middle. Serve with wholegrain rice and salad.



WELL A TRULY HECTIC SEMESTER IS NOW OVER, AND A NEW ONE IS UPON US, WITH MANY EXCITING THINGS TO COME!

Last year finished with a Meeting of the DITSU Governing Council, where USI Representatives: Peter Manion, President; Dan O'Neill, Deputy President and Chris Bond, Eastern Area Officer were invited to a Question and Answer session by the Governing Councillors. Many contentious issues were discussed, and USI will be invited back before the end of the year.

All of the Governing Council Sub Committees have been meeting regularly, and this will continue into the new semester, where the committees start sitting from the 2nd February. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for the hard work and time they have put in to make the all the committees successful for the first time since the new Constitution was adopted.

Class Rep Meetings, and Local Programme Implementation Teams (LPIT's) have all been sitting regularly, with great attendance. Let's hope we can continue the momentum into the second semester.

February will be a crazy month on the democracy side of things, starting in the first week with Class Rep Meetings being held on all sites, and two sessions of Governing Council, 10th February and 22nd February. The latter will be accommodating the Sab-

batical Hustings sessions, and will be held in Gleeson Hall. This is a chance for the candidates running for Sabbatical Officer to address the Governing Council, and take questions from the floor. If you are not a Governing Councillor, you are still welcome to come and watch the evening's proceedings.

We are also preparing for USI Congress, which will be taking place from the 30th March to 2nd April 2010. We will be taking 10 motions forward, and if passed, these will form part of the USI Policy which stands for 5 years. If you are interested in going as part of the delegation, an application needs to be submitted to the Clerk of Governing Council's office, no later than Thursday the 18th February. Spaces are very limited, so make sure you get your application in on time.

Please keep checking the website for all democracy updates, and you will also find past Minutes and important documents. Once again, if you have any queries, please drop into your local Students' Union Office, or contact Claire Healey on 01 402 2940 or administrator@ditsu.ie

DIT STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 22/23 24/25

faq's

Sabbatical Hustings:

Rathmines Hustings:

Thursday 11th February. Time 1PM

Aungier St. Hustings:

Monday 15th February. Time 1PM

Kevin St. Hustings:

Tuesday 16th February. Time 1PM

Mountjoy Sq. Hustings:

Wednesday 17th February. Time 1PM

Cathal Brugha St. Hustings:

Thursday 18th February. Time 1PM

Bolton St. Hustings:

Monday 22nd February. Time 1PM

HOW CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT THE CANDIDATES?

Apart from the many posters adorning the walls, each candidate's details and manifesto are on the following pages and on ditsu.ie Also the HUSTINGS are a great opportunity to see & hear the candidates in person.

HUSTINGS are public questions & answers sessions where the candidates address the students and take questions from them. They explain why they wish to run for election and what they plan to do during the term (sabbatical). Students ask questions or raise issues and ask how they would deal with them. It's an excellent opportunity to suss out the people you will choose to represent you next year.

WHEN & WHERE CAN I VOTE?

You need to vote on the site you are registered on (except for Temple Bar and Portland Row Students who can vote in Aungier & Mountjoy if they miss Monday voting). Polling stations will be on your site during the following days 22 – 25 FEB.

HOW DO I VOTE?

1. Take your Student card to the polling station on your site. Your name will be ticked off the list. If you are not on the list - you're probably on the wrong site. You must vote where you registered.

2. Get the 3 ballot papers in total. 1 for each position.

3. Mark your preferred choice as number 1, your next preferred as number 2 and so on.

4. Pop your ballot papers into the sealed ballot box.

5. Revel in the feeling of having done your civic duty.

WHEN WILL WE KNOW THE RESULTS?

The ballot papers are counted on 25 Feb 09 in Bolton St at 2p.m. This is a public count and all are welcome so come along. Results will be announced on ditsu.ie

WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

While you are a member of the Students' Union already, you should vote in the elections to further add your support. Like all unions, the bigger we are the stronger we are.

When you students take part in SU activities such as voting and campaigns, our voice becomes louder and we can DO MORE FOR YOU OUR MEMBERS.



so, here they are- your candidates for election- best get used to their faces- you'll be seeing a lot of them!

read on to find out what each candidate has to say, and why they think you should give them your vote.

DIT STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 22/23 24/25

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU PRESIDENT. SEAN CAMPBELL.

Manifesto for Election:



"OUR UNION IS A GREAT RESOURCE, BUT MANY STUDENTS DON'T KNOW THIS. I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE DIT WITHOUT CHANGING THAT. ALSO I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING I SET OUT TO DO IN MY MANIFESTO, FOR THIS CURRENT TERM. I WILL DO THE SAME NEXT YEAR WHEN YOU VOTE FOR ME AS YOUR SU PRESIDENT."

I have been involved with the DIT Students' Union since becoming a class rep in Kevin St, then a Class Rep Convenor for 08/09, I am currently VP Services and Trading and now I'm running for President of DITSU in 2010/11. Below is my manifesto, giving you a broad overview of my aims & plans for DITSU next year, a year which will surely see even more challenges facing us students right now.

Working for the last 7 months as your VP, I've gained a wealth of experience, the workings of the Students Union and how everything works in DIT, or doesn't work as the case tends to be these days.

I hope my passion for and commitment to the Students' Union has been evident these last two years and I've always firmly believed that it's your vote, your money, your college and your union, so make us work for it. I can guarantee, if elected I will continue to work all hours of the day and nights to ensure DIT student's get what they pay for.

This year, so far we've seen more and more students getting involved and DITSU is going from strength to strength with your involvement – whether it is about the cutback/embargo problems, being part of the increasing ranks of Class Reps and Governing Councillors, filling SU committees and Clubs & Socs guild, you guys have shown you care and want a say in what's happening in DIT now and in Grangegorman later – IN THAT ORDER.

This year has been one of the busiest years for DITSU officers – on top of the usual issues, we've had the cutbacks/staffing embargo and more and more students struggling in this recession. All of this means that we have been pulled from pillar to post, which I suppose is what we chose to do when we ran for election.

For me and the part I played in it, the reopening of the pool/gyms means that for the first time ever DITSU was worked successfully at a national level to solve issues in DIT and shows what we can do when we are together.

Sitting on the Governing Body (Highest Decision Making Committee) of DIT, and on the Boards of DITSU, DITSU Trading and the many more committees in DIT, as VP, has given me great experience and a head start, if elected as President with the running of the Institute. If you give me your vote you will certainly get value for money. I for one have learned that I am not afraid of having my say for you the students, whether at Governing Body or with the HEA / Minister for Education.

For me, DITSU is something that we can all be proud of, and to be a member of active, powerful organisation, making sure on protecting students rights. This means making sure all Union activities and services are relevant to you, while at the same time challenging DIT to provide the excellent student experience you are entitled to. So far this year I have achieved a great deal for students all over DIT, and I'm not finished yet! RAG week is on the way and the plans are looking really great, its going to be the best week of the year!

Relevant Experience

"A Class Rep, Governing Councillor, Convenor, Vice President, a hard worker for DIT students" I have been at the highest level of involvement in DIT, Governing Body, HEA and lobbying TD's over the reintroduction of 3rd level fees.

I have been at the front of all of DITSU's and USI's Protests on fees and proud to say slept outside Dail Eireann for your Student rights. As Vice Presidencs & Trading I have transformed the DITSU Shops with the cheapest Insomnia Coffee in Dublin. With the entertainment equipment on each site being upgraded you students can now use this and have various fun and events during lunchtimes.

Other Achievements so far:

- Part of effort to get Gyms & Swimming Pool back open
- A lot of Improvements to faculties on campus for students, bolton st library a work in progress
- Attended well over 250 meetings in DIT to raise issues on your behalf
- All our events prices down to €5.00 per gig
- Classes finally moved out of Gleason Hall and into rooms
- Lobbied for Plasmas Screens for most of the sites for ents and info campaigns
- Insomnia Coffee and Tea Machine in all of our SU shops, including Cathal Brugha
- 3 fully packed and fun filled Grad balls
- Fundraising for the RAG charity and also got it to be the USI National Charity
- Organised the only Fresher's week to ever last 2 weeks!
- Organised over 50 class party's to date
- Planned the best RAG week DIT students will see, I promise! And a lot more, see fliers for Details!

What I want to do you next year as you President:

First things first, we need to tackle communication. There have been a lot of improvements to communications this year but I want to do more. I want to look into using Gmail as the new student e-mail system. Let's face it, the system we have has problems. Gmail is a more user-friendly system and will give students improved access to e-mails. Less annoying, less hassle, much better for everyone.

I also want to incorporate Boards into the DITSU website. Boards.ie is a system used successfully by colleges across the country and I think it would work well in DITSU. It is a great way to open up the lines of communication even further. Every little helps.

One of the big things I'd like to work on is Christmas Exams. They are scheduled in January which effectively means a stressful Christmas. I don't see any reason why the

exams shouldn't be before Christmas, that way you guys get some well-earned rest over the holiday. It would take a lot of work, but that's not something I'm afraid of.

I want to work on making sure that the same high standards are available across every site in DIT. It shouldn't matter what site you are on, whether it's one of the six main sites or one of our many smaller sites around Dublin every student is entitled to the same level of supports, communication and attention. That's very important to me and something I will work hard on.

The students in DIT are the Union. So it's really important that students get involved. I want to push student participation even further. I want even more students getting involved and having fun, whether it's within the union or having a laugh in clubs and societies. Again, I believe communication is the key here. I want to sit down and review and improve how students are communicated with.

Finally, I want to ensure that DITSU maintains its reputation as a union that informs and defends its students. They say no man is an island and I think that goes for colleges as well. It is important for us to maintain good working relationships with other college unions because we can learn from them and I know they can learn from us. That will include talking at some people, listening to others and making sure that DITSU's interests are represented outside DIT. I intend to make sure that students get value for money by keeping them advised and involved on DITSU's efforts on a national level. I hope this convinces you that I am the man for the job. I won't let you down.

Yours Sincerely,
Sean Campbell.

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to!

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

I am like a Chocolate digestive biscuit, plain and simple but always satisfying & I have all the right ingredients to be your President next year.

What's the best thing about DIT?

DIT students are always proud to be from DIT and we always know how to have fun!

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

Having to do exams after Christmas, I will change this for the better of students' life. I've asked students and many want this to change, not in 5 years time, but this year!

World Peace or The Puppies?

I won't be working on world peace this coming year or looking after puppies, but I will be trying to change the way DIT works with Students, and ensure that they DO IT TODAY!!!

CANDIDATE FOR RUNNING FOR: SU PRESIDENT. CIARÁN NEVIN.

Manifesto for Election:

The Role of The President

The president of DITSU is responsible for two departments. These are Chief Operations (strategy and running of the organisation), and Communications (with students, DIT, and the world beyond). The president, and two vice-presidents are responsible for the six departments that make up DITSU. The president is also the chief spokesperson for the Union. I believe that a more important role however is that of Chief-Listener.

My Promises to You – The Student That Pays For This Union

A president of the people, I will not hide in meetings but instead will be out listening to your thoughts and issues.

An open office policy, making my office open to you to voice your issues.

A weekly Q&A session, so you can ask me direct questions and get the answers you deserve.

Q&A's of importance to the whole student body will be published in the Union media.

Creation of a leader of the opposition type position to directly ensure that the president deals with your questions or matters – your ombudsman.

Greater transparency on decisions.

An electronic forum allowing students to directly interact with the President, Vice Presidents, and Convenors.

Ensure that elected representatives are concerned specifically with campaigns and policy, and to ensure that staff are there to facilitate this.

A proactive union, rather than the reactive union we all know too well.

An emphasis on competition, to allow for better student services.

Efforts to forge direct links with other SU's to improve services and deals offered (bulk buying).

Better training for all elected representatives in debating, and communications to ensure that students get the best deal possible.

A crack down on lazy representatives and absenteeism, which wastes your money.

Examination of the role of convenor, and changes made where needed.

DITSU Excellence Awards, to reward those that have worked hardest for the good of students.

Possible use of an intern system to free up paid representatives from paper work at minimal cost.

A drive to improve our own media, and the scope of its work.

An emphasis on public relations, so that DITSU gets greater media coverage, for its issues and charitable work.

Investigation of cost cutting, and money saving opportunities, to recession proof the organisation and ensure services do not suffer.

'Ranting Days' in each site, allowing you to voice your concerns, with the promise of being heard and heeded.

Most importantly, I promise that you will be heard, and that I will act!

A Time For Change – Not Empty Promises and Sound Bites.

In my five years I have held many DIT Students' Union positions, including Clubs Officer, Services Officer, Governing Councillor, Class Rep Convenor, Director of DITSU Ltd, and most importantly Class Rep. I have also represented DIT students at a national level for the past five years as a delegate to The Union of Students in Ireland National Congress.

While this section may seem like a CV, and it is in many ways, I only mention the positions I have held so as to show my wide experience of this union and of its institutions. In my five years I have seen much that has impressed me, but I have also seen much that I am very unhappy with.

The biggest failure of this union in my five years has been its inability to reach out to its most important asset, You – the student who pays for the wages, and services offered by this union.

Over the past five years this union has greatly improved the efficiency and quality of everyday services. As a service provider it has grown strong, but as a democracy it has become weak.

Being a dedicated class rep for five years, I know that nothing is more important than the grassroots, the members of this union, the students who benefit from its success and who suffer greatly as a result of its failings.

For years, presidents, and vice presidents have been elected on the back of promises that can never be kept. Promises of sweeping changes to DIT and to the quality of student life. These changes can never be brought about in the manner that they have been pursued to date. Union leaders have lost touch with students on the ground, and without the support and backing of our 22000 plus students, no real change can be made.

There has been too much concern with changing DIT, and not enough with getting our own house in order first. As you will note, almost all of my promises are concerned with the effectiveness and efficiency of Your union. I aim to enact these changes, to provide you with the strong union that you deserve and have paid for. Only if we are strong can we achieve any of the changes we would like to see.

Another major weakness is our lack of real representation at a national level. Each year DIT students pay a total of €66 000 to the Union of Students Ireland USI. I do not believe that we get value for our money. How many of you can name the USI president for instance, or can claim to have spoken to him. €66 000 could pay for two more full time positions to give you a better service, or could give 15 students part time paid positions, or pay for a Public Relations consultant. It would also help a lot of students in very hard times. What do you think?

A Man of The People

By definition, a leader requires followers, and this has not been evident of many of our leaders in the past. Our presidents have catastrophically failed to bring students behind

them. They have failed to lead from the front. Choosing instead to hide in paperwork and bureaucracy.

As a presidential candidate, I have clearly laid out the president that you will get by voting for me. I will focus on what this union can offer you, and how effective it is at offering you support and services. Every minute that I can, I will be out and among the students, walking and talking my way through the canteens, and the common areas, ensuring that you see the president that you elected, and that you get an opportunity to hold me to account.

Past candidates have recognised that they will never be the leader of this union without your votes, but this is not all that must be recognised.

This union will never have a strong leader until it has a strong following. Voting for me is the first step, and I will reward your trust in me by ensuring that your voice is heard! A vote may sometimes just be a tick in a box, but a vote for Ciarán Nevin is about giving yourself a voice, and giving this union a direction! Thank you for your time, I look forward to serving you!

Sincerely,

Ciarán Nevin.

We ask the important questions, so you don't have to!

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

I love all biscuits with a good mug of tae, except for Jammy Dodgers – there's enough of them around here!

What's the best thing about DIT?

It may be cheesy, and an obvious answer for a man looking for votes, but it has to be the students. Lets face it we can't exactly be too happy with our facilities. No matter where you are the group of people having the most fun are always DIT students. The fact that DIT is spread over so many buildings also gives each campus its own quirks and appeal.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

The fact that we often settle for much less than we deserve. There can be a sort of acceptance that we don't deserve the best. I suppose that's what I am trying to fix more than anything. Its vital that students work together to demand a better quality of service, from both the DIT, and the Students' Union.

World Peace or The Puppies?

I don't have an shares in the arms industry so world peace is probably the one for me, so long as it's a just peace rather than an enforced one. Puppies are all very well but they have an awful tendency to destroy your best shoes and poo on your floor. Also, despite common belief, puppies are not a suitable substitute for toilet roll.



"MY TEAM AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY TO CREATE NOT JUST A CAMPAIGN, BUT A POSITIVE MOVEMENT AIMED AT IMPROVING THE LIVES OF ALL STUDENTS. A VOTE FOR ME WILL ENSURE THAT THIS CAN HAPPEN. THE CHOICE IS POSITIVE CHANGE AND BETTER VALUE OR MORE OF THE SAME."

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: **SU VICE PRESIDENT. [ACADEMIC & CLARE CULLEN. STUDENT AFFAIRS]**

Manifesto for Election:

Relevant Experience

Office Assistant, Oifig Na Gaeilge
DIT, 147-149 Rathmines, Rathmines,
Dublin 6.

Responsibilities included:

- Event planning I organised an All day cross Campus event "Lá NO Béarla". Sourced prizes for each competition, organised and delegated staff to man promotional stands & to judge the completion.
- Poster design & Scheduling of "Lá NO Béarla"
- Publicising this event & Other Society activities by through Direct mail and through face to face promotion. This required the effective communication skills clearing detailing and promoting the appeal of each event.
- Design of T-shirts, Posters and hoodies for society promotions.
- Ordering of Prizes and dealing with suppliers for Society ' promotional apparel on a daily basis.
- Working as part of an office team reporting to my line manager.

Reasons for Running:

I have a passion for all things DIT and think I would fit in the SU. I love the idea of helping people with the difficulties in college, like finance and accommodation. I want to help the

student body change things that need to be changed.

Aims and Objectives:

My aim is to make DIT a more environmentally-friendly and accommodating place for students. I wish to improve the student experience as much as possible. I aim to listen to the students and change the things that they want to change. My objective is to make college as enjoyable an experience as I can.

Policies:

- Link DIT with more affordable student accommodation.
- Get more recycle bins in DIT.
- Create an energy-saving environment, with computers being turned off overnight.
- Work with the Vice-president of Services and Trading to get library hours that suit the students.
- Work with the elected sabbaticals towards reinstating the rag trip.
- Work with the staff to get things fixed quicker around the campuses.
- Get more downtime activities, such as pool tables, in the smaller campuses.

Yours Sincerely,
Clare Cullen.



"NOT ONLY WILL I GET THE JOB DONE, AND DONE WELL, I WILL ALWAYS HAVE TIME (AND A SMILE) FOR YOU. IF YOU WANT SOMEONE YOU CAN COME UP TO AT ANY TIME FOR HELP WITH A PROBLEM OR EVEN JUST A CHAT, THEN I'M YOUR WOMAN!"

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

In less than 50 words, why should we vote for you?

Not only will I get the job done, and done well, I will always have time (and a smile) for you. If you want someone you can come up to at any time for help with a problem or even just a chat, then I'm your woman!

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

I really want to say Jaffa Cake, just to be controversial and start up the old 'Jaffa Cake; cake or biscuit?' debate, but I think I'm going to have to go with Ginger Nut, for obvious reasons!

What's the best thing about DIT?

The Students Unions, the craic and the buzz down there. Bands playing in Aungier Street, games consoles in Kevin Street, table tennis in Bolton! Hanging with friends in the SU is my favourite thing about college!

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

Lack of bars on-campus.... other colleges have them, why can't we? I hope for future students that there are plans for one in Grangegorman!

World Peace or The Puppies?

Hmm... well, obviously I have to go with world peace, being a closet hippy... but can I still have a puppy?

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU VICE PRESIDENT. [ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS] JOHN MAY.

Manifesto for Election:

So for those of you who don't know, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs deals with anything from you puking on your exam paper to problems with your landlord. Among friends I am the problem solver so I know expanding this role to all the students of DIT is the job for me. We are the Students' Union, a clique some say but it's a clique with some 22,000 members. So participate, communicate and informate*



"I WANT A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK TO THE STUDENT BODY FOR ALL THAT I HAVE GAINED AND EXPERIENCED FROM IT. THROUGH MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE UNION AND ON THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE I FEEL I HAVE GAINED INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE AND THAT I AM THE BEST FOR THE JOB."

Background and Experience:

- Captain of school debate team
- Directing casts of 60+
- CBST Drama Soc President, Vice President, Treasurer and North-side Public Relations Officer.
- Class Rep 08/09
- DITSU Governing Councillor 07/08 and 09/10
- Four years experience working on DITSU campaigns, promotions and events.
- Seven months of professional placement engaged in conflict resolution and legislative enforcement.

Most relevant of all however, I am this year's Chairperson of the Academic and Student Affairs Sub-Committee, which reviews the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs yearly work plan. From this I have an in depth working knowledge of the function and role of the VP of Academic and Student Affairs

Aims and Objectives:

My main goal as VP of Academic and Student Affairs is to reinforce the mantra of "participation, communication and information". Students across all campuses are still oblivious to the services available to them, and their entitlements as DITSU members and as students of DIT as a whole. Participation within the Union and communication throughout DITSU and the DIT needs to be improved, just as information on the services and resources available needs to be communicated effectively to all. The services are there for you and they should be utilised.

In relation to Student Affairs I wish to highlight and work on the following areas:

Accommodation – Students now find themselves in a rare position of power when it comes to accommodation and with regard to terms of tenancy. I intend to promote awareness on tenancy rights, health standards, electricity ratings etc.

Employment – I plan to make information on employment rights more accessible to all students. I also plan to investigate the feasibility and merits of creating an overall employment committee/site specific officers to manage and update a database of job opportunities, and to take positive steps towards the provision of adequately paid work placement for students.

Finance – In the current economic climate financial uncertainty will be one of the biggest issues facing students. I believe that a comprehensive information campaign on the fi-

nancial supports and services available should be run upon students return to the new academic year. Throughout the year I intend to continually highlight your entitlements with regard to financial supports and services through information campaigns, the class rep system, fresher packs, and all available channels of communication.

Welfare – I intend to increase promotion of the health services already in place, throughout my term of office. The DIT's counselling service is worryingly understaffed. This must be addressed as a matter of urgency along with tackling any possible negative perception surrounding this service. One possible way of achieving this change in perception could be through the use of confidential student testimonials. I would work towards the introduction of health and safety training (first aid, manual handling etc) for class reps as a pilot scheme, with a view to opening it to a wider student base.

Non-traditional Students – With the introduction of the Widening Participation Policy there will be an increased demand for more funding and resources to provide support for these students. Alongside my fellow Sabbatical Officers I plan to lobby the DIT and Government to address this increased demand.

In relation to Academic Affairs:

Exams – I intend to push for standardised procedures for exam registration across all sites; increased communication between DITSU, the exams office and faculties, with meaningful academic feed back. These are all issues I plan to work tirelessly on during my term of office.

Class Rep recruitment – I will encourage and work along side Convenors to strive for a full compliment of class reps to ensure your opinions are heard and acted upon.

Library – I will work towards site-appropriate library opening hours, improved services, and increased quiet room spaces.

Support services – I intend to continue the work on the grinds, and second-hand books database to ensure it is comprehensive, up to date and that every student knows of the existence of these great resources.

Technology – I will continue to encourage the DIT for the use of freeware and cloud computing technology for student e-learning and communication.

Accreditation for Participation – I plan to lobby the further implementation of this pre-existing pilot scheme, to broaden this scheme to include all sites, and to increase student awareness of the scheme.

**John May acknowledges the fact that "informate" is not a word but would like to point out that in this context it should be.*

Declaration of my Commitment to you:

I have gained valuable experience in diplomacy and conflict resolution through my life experiences. This is one of the key elements I will bring to the role as your representative in Academic and personal matters. When you elect me I shall protect your rights and advocate on your behalf, any and every time you need me and in the process of doing so I shall strive to ensure that at all times, I will remain accountable to you, the students, and that while maintaining the confidential nature of some of my work I will allow complete oversight of my actions and will at all times make myself available to assist with any issues or concerns you may have.

"Participate, communicate, informate"

It's your Union, use it.

Yours Sincerely,

John May.

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

In less than 50 words, why should we vote for you?

I want a chance to give back to the student body for all that I have gained and experienced from it. Through my involvement in the Union and on the Academic and Student Affairs Sub-Committee I feel I have gained invaluable experience and that I am the best for the job.

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

Definitely an Oreo, unknown but epic ha

What's the best thing about DIT?

Through our small classes and sites it's very easy to make friends while still being part of the big picture of 22,000+ students.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

Our greatest strength is also our greatest weakness, no central campus.

World Peace or The Puppies?

Well puppies are an achievable objective but world peace would be nice. So I think I'll have to go with world peace cause I know I can go out and get a puppy in the morning

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: **SU VICE PRESIDENT. [SERVICES & TRADING]** **BARRY DRAKE.**

Manifesto for Election:

Relevant Experience:

I have a lot of experience with the students union. I am involved in a lot of different areas of the students union at the moment. I am currently a residential assistant in the Herberton student accommodation in Rialto. This is my second year to work in Herberton. In April of 2008 I was part of the team that represented DIT at the USI National Congress in Bettystown Co. Meath. I am currently sitting on the governing council for DITSU at the moment. I know what it takes for the daily running of the DITSU and the work involved in the job.

The experience I have had as residential assistant is huge. On a daily basis I would be sorting out problems for students that are living in the accommodation. I also organised induction evenings, events, nights out and parties and I would like to think that I brought some life changing moments to the students that lived in the Herberton. If I am elected Vice President I would like to think that all of the experience I have gained would stand to me in the position.

I also was a part time officer in DIT Kevin Street in 2008/2009. I helped with the organising of events in the campus. I hope all of this particular experience will be very useful and will make my role as VP more interesting and more enjoyable for students. I also organised very successful days where societies like the DJ soc came in and performed their stuff for us in the Kevin Street Students Union. In 2008 and 2009 I was part of the

induction team Kevin St. I also was part of the team that helped with the fight the fees marches for the Eastern area colleges and also for the national protest the USI organised in Dublin.

Other Experience:

I am currently a member of the Mostrim Gun club. In recent years I was elected as the treasurer of the club. I also sat on the committee as the PRO of the club. With these roles I was dealing with the day to day running of the club, the spending in the club and also the advertising the clubs events and news. I have won four U21 county high Gun competitions in successive years and in 2002 I was involved in the club team that won the overall Longford title. I also represented Longford at the All Ireland Clay Pigeon Shooting from the years 2003 to 2008. In 2004 I came 4th in Ireland in the U21 event. As a Gaelic football player I have played under the severest pressure at all levels of the game. I have won medals also at all levels of the game.

I also am a qualified electrician and my first experience of DITSU was when I was an apprentice electrician in Kevin Street in 2006. As an electrician I was a Foreman for the company that I worked for in which I was in charge of 20 other electricians. This was no mean feat for a 21 year old at the time but the challenge and experience was great and I believe that I stood up to them. However in 2007 I did make the life changing move to go back to college and DIT was my college preference.

Reasons for Running:

One of my main reasons for running would be to change the lives of thousands of students and give them the best college experience that any student would ask for. In the past few years I have noticed when students are going into second and third year they will no longer want to participate in the DITSU events. It seems to me that most events would be aimed at the Freshers coming into DIT and lets be honest a 22 year old 4th year student wouldn't like to be at events where there is a gathering of rowdy freshers. They would much prefer to go to more sophisticated clubs in town to meet maturer people. I believe that college should be fun no matter what year a student is in so I will intend in doing events for each and everybody that attends DIT.

We all know that the services in DIT particularly in this year is a massive issue and effected almost all of the students in our college. I intend to make some major moves in this area in the attempt to make DIT a better facility in general by working with the buildings manager and other sabbaticals to ensure the safety and comfort of the DIT students.

I would also like to make improvements to the DITSU shops. I would try and get them to hold more stock over the periods of the Christmas and the summer for the students. I would work with the shop managers and other sabbaticals to ensure that non-perishable goods would always be kept in stock for these times.

Library opening hours are also a very important issue especially around the times of exams. I will work with the rest of my team/or other sabbaticals to try and solve this problem that affects all students around these times.

I would like to improve the Wifi systems around each of the colleges. Internet in the college has been a very contentious issue in the past few months and I would like to improve this facility for the students. Also the issue with the printing system in all the colleges is a major issue. I would propose to get the new system up and running with a maintenance man on call at all times in the case of failure of the system. I would also like to make printing cheaper through out the colleges.

I would also propose to move the DIT email accounts to gmail. I would do this by working with the IT department to give the students a lot better system of emails and communication.

Entertainment:

Loads of events across the board for all students to get involved in the student lifestyle. There are loads of different types of events run each year over the two semesters for all students to get involved in the student way of life. I would have loads events for all big occasions such as Christmas ball, Halloween and Easter parties. I would look after all occasions and all areas of DIT.

I would try to introduce more fun into the Union with more games. I propose to introduce such systems as the Nintendo Wii into all the common areas, where possible.

I would also propose to introduce good working PA systems into all of the unions and I would put in place a juke box in each of the Student Union areas where possible to make it much more fun at lunch times for the students. To make lunch times and break time more interesting for all students

I would also like to try and bring back some sort of a Mystery trip for DIT students for e.g. during RAG week for the students. As an apprentice electrician I attended one of these trips and thought it was the business, however since coming back to DIT the Mystery Trip has not happened at all. Although it is only one day I think that we need this bit of mystery back in DIT. I would like for this issue to be resolved and bring a mystery trip which would be safe and enjoyable for all students.

Yours Sincerely,

Barry Drake.

We ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

In less than 50 words, why should we vote for you?

You should vote for me to be your VP Services & Trading for the simple reason that I am the best in DIT for organising a good party and getting things done. Next year will be a great year when I am VP Services & Trading.

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

I would be a chocolate caramel digestive (dunked in tea for best results).

What's the best thing about DIT?

Having the city of Dublin as our Campus!

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

The lack of good sports facilities for DIT students.

World Peace or The Puppies?

World Peace!!!



"YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR ME TO BE YOUR VP SERVICES & TRADING FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT I AM THE BEST IN DIT FOR ORGANISING A GOOD PARTY AND GETTING THINGS DONE. NEXT YEAR WILL BE A GREAT YEAR WHEN I AM ELECTED VP SERVICES & TRADING."

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU VICE PRESIDENT. [SERVICES & ERIC FITZGERALD. TRADING]

Manifesto for Election:

Hi, I'm Eric Fitzgerald and I'm running for Vice President of Services & Trading. I'm a final year Journalism with a Language (German) (DT553/4) student in DIT Aungier St.



Background and Experience:

I'm running for election because I'm a passionate, committed individual who believes in the power of the student union movement as a strong force for change. I've been involved in the Union in a variety of different roles. I served as a class rep between 2007 and 2009. I was a Governing Councillor for Aungier St for 2007/8. I've served two terms as Class Rep Convenor for both 2008/9 and currently for 2009/10. I currently sit on the Students' Union Services & Trading Sub-Committee.

As part of my studies, I spent a semester in Germany on Erasmus. This taught me to adapt my skills to deal with a challenging new environment. This experience will no doubt serve me in great stead as your Vice President of Services & Trading, a role which will require me to deal with new and varying challenges each and every day.

Anyone will tell you that I have brought energy and dedication to the role of Class Rep Convenor and these are qualities which I will bring to the role of Vice President of Services & Trading in spades.

In my three years of involvement with the DIT Students' Union, I've gained

a wealth of knowledge about how the Students' Union works and what I need to do to change it for the better. My two terms as Class Rep Convenor have given me a unique and intimate insight into how your Union works and how I can make it work better for you.

We have the best Students' Union in the country, no doubt about it. But it's missing a little something.

Aims and Objectives:

Your Students' Union is missing something – a student voice in events organisation.

It's missing a strong student voice in the organisation of events. Students currently have very little say in the events that they want to see happening. As your Vice President of Services & Trading, I promise to establish an Ents crew who will serve as an advisory body for myself and the Events & Marketing Manager throughout the year. These students will always be consulted on events organised by the Students' Union and will ultimately have the final say on whether something goes ahead or not. They will have a key role in decision-making for events.

Your Students' Union is missing something – world class events.

It's missing events of a world class calibre. Too often, we see the same bands trotted out. Is anyone else out there as sick to death of The Blizzards playing DITSU events as I am? When

I am your Vice President of Services & Trading, I will look across the water to the UK and US to get some of the best acts the world has to offer to come and play for you, DIT students. Any extra cost will be offset by new sponsorship agreements, into which I will help our Union enter.

Your Students' Union is missing something – a forum for the stars.

It's missing an award to entice the world's finest actors, musicians, politicians and sports-people to come and talk to DIT students. If elected, I will reform DITSU's honorary membership in the DITSU Brendan Behan Award, an award which will become the rival of Trinity's Samuel Beckett Award and UCD's James Joyce Award.

Your Students' Union is missing something – clear communication.

It's missing basic communication from its officers to its members. As Vice President of Services & Trading, I will not rely on innuendo and hearsay when it comes to libraries. I will sort out the facts for you as soon as possible, so you don't have to worry about opening hours and other concerns during the stressful exam period.

Your Students' Union is missing something – hassle-free class parties.

It's missing a simple, easy way to organise a class party. When I am elected your Vice President of Services & Trading, I will establish an online database of what nightclubs are running which offers on what nights. That way, you can just pick up the phone and sort it out yourself. There will no longer be any need for the tired rigmarole of ringing the Events & Marketing Manager to ring the nightclub and then ring you back. Of course, your SU will be on hand to help you should you need it.

Your Students' Union is missing something – basic needs for facilities.

It's missing an adequate response to your basic needs being met for learning facilities. We have rooms across DIT without adequate heating, adequate seating, adequate lighting, leaks and even wasp infestations. As your Vice President of Services & Trading, I promise to fight tooth and nail to make sure that your most basic of needs are met from a facilities perspective.

Your Students' Union is missing something – a cheaper dining alternative.

It's missing cheap, good quality hot food across all sites. Instead, students are being left in the hands of unscrupulous, extortionate third party catering companies who charge ridiculous prices for sub-standard rubbish. When I am elected as your Vice President of Services & Trading, I will

promote expansion of the Students' Union shop services into offering a hot food service across all sites. This leaves more money in the pocket of you, the student.

Your Students' Union is missing something – A PIECE THAT FITZ.

It's missing a Vice President of Services & Trading who's willing to give everything they have to improve facilities and events for DIT students. It's missing a powerful force for change. There's a space that needs filling and it's missing its piece. It's missing Eric Fitzgerald - THE PIECE THAT FITZ!

Yours Sincerely,

Eric Fitzgerald.

we ask the important questions so you don't have to:

In less than 50 words, why should we vote for you?

Vote for me because we're missing something from our SU. We're missing events by students, for students, a forum for the stars, your basic facilities needs being met and clear communication with students about libraries. Vote for me because I'm the piece that Fitz!

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

If I were a biccie, I'd be a chocolate digestive. I'm easy to deal with and I don't crumble under pressure – even if a cup of tea does make me feel a little warm inside!

What's the best thing about DIT?

The best thing about DIT is our sense of identity and how it changes. When you're on your site, it's almost tribal, the attachment that you feel with it. But when DIT students are out in a group, site allegiances go out the window – we're all one big, mental DIT family.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

My biggest gripe about DIT is that we're not reaching our full potential. We're arguably the largest third level institution in Ireland with graduates who are the most prepared for the real world, but still we lag behind Trinity and UCD. It's time for that to change!

World Peace or The Puppies?

Hmm...the puppies would be pleased with world peace...but puppies are lovely...it's a tough one! Is it possible to bring about world peace solely through use of strategically placed puppies?

"VOTE FOR ME BECAUSE WE'RE MISSING SOMETHING FROM OUR SU. WE'RE MISSING EVENTS BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS, A FORUM FOR THE STARS, YOUR BASIC FACILITIES NEEDS BEING MET AND CLEAR COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS ABOUT LIBRARIES. VOTE FOR ME BECAUSE I'M THE PIECE THAT FITZ!"

**CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR:
SU VICE PRESIDENT. [SERVICES &
JOHN WADE. TRADING]**

Manifesto for Election:

Relevant Experience:

Product Design is one of the few courses in DIT which is based on more than one campus. As a result of this I know the campuses of Bolton Street, Aungier Street and Mountjoy Square equally well. I am also familiar with all of the other campuses through my involvement with the Students Union during inductions week as I was a member of the WOW crew this year. Being president of the DIT Ski Club has given me the opportunity to get to know all of the DIT locations around the city and their respective facilities.

During my time as president of the DIT Ski Club, I ran The Launch Party at the start of the year, gave out free t-shirts, ran lessons in the Ski Centre every week, organized a ski trip for 120 DIT students to Les Arcs 1800 in the Alps and organised themed nights every night.

Following the cancellation of the exams on Monday the 11th of January, I argued alongside the Students Union to ensure that the exams affected would not be rescheduled for the middle of the Ski Trip as this would have affected the majority of students, forcing them to pull out of the trip. Thankfully, the examinations offices on each campus agreed to facilitate the students affected. As a result of my efforts, other students, apart from those going on the ski trip, were able to go on previously booked holidays.

Other Experience:

I spent two consecutive summers (2006 & 2007) doing volunteer work on a monkey sanctuary in South Africa, constructing enclosures, cleaning cages, feeding the monkeys, building fire breaks, patrolling etc.

In 2008 I was elected secretary of the Ski Club and the following year became president. I have extensive experience in fundraising, event organisation, group management, and problem solving and issue resolution.

In the summer of 2009 I cycled from Dublin to Paris in aid of The Irish Hospice Foundation covering 600km in 5 days. As a result, I raised €3,500 for the IHF.

Reasons for Running:

As a final year student I can see the benefits of getting involved in every aspect of student life as college is about much more than just attending lectures and exams! I feel that the social scene in DIT can still be improved greatly through the use of better cross-campus communication and events. Every campus deserves lunchtime entertainment and savage nights out!

Every DIT student pays the same capitation fee of €1500 to attend but not every student receives the same facilities or services. As the VP Services and Trading I would strive to ensure that each campus and each student, whether international, part-time, full-time, or mature, is treated equal. Bolton Street and Aungier Street have regular lunchtime

entertainment but Mountjoy Square receive little or none. If you are a student of Cathal Brugha Street and need to do some colour printing, you have to travel over to Bolton Street or Mountjoy Square to use their facilities. If one of the larger campuses runs an event or a night out, the other campuses rarely hears about it. Broken computers with faulty keyboards and mice will be a thing of the past.

Aims & Objectives:

There will be no such thing as "the forgotten college", every campus will be treated as equal. If facilities can't be matched due to space issues or building regulations, then I will make every effort to ensure that alternative services will be provided.

If elected to office, I will set about achieving the following for students

- Lower prices for students in the canteens, SU shops, and coffee shops on all campuses.
- Better meal deals and better savings for students.
- Laser card machine in the canteens and shops.
- Working computers, keyboards, mice, desks, printers, scanners and up-to-date software
- Access to working printers outside of library opening hours on every campus

Yours Sincerely,

John Wade.

We ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

In less than 50 words, why should we vote for you?

As a final year student I can see the benefits of getting involved in every aspect of student life, as college is about much more than just attending lectures and exams! I feel that the social scene in DIT can still be improved greatly through the use of better cross-campus communication and events. Every DIT student pays the same capitation fee of €1500 to attend but not every student receives the same facilities or services. As the VP Services and Trading I would strive to ensure that each campus and each student, whether international, part-time, full-time, or mature, is treated equal!

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

I would be a chocolate caramel digestive (dunked in tea for best results).

What's the best thing about DIT?

Definitely the people! In my experience, DIT students are charming (like to take their clothes off when drunk), smart (still manage to steal the toilet paper no matter how many barriers they put up) and ridiculously better looking than any other college worldwide.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

The fact that the smaller colleges don't receive the same facilities and services as the bigger ones despite the fact that every student pays the same €1500 capitation fee! Also, the cross-campus communication and perhaps the lack of student bar!

World Peace or The Puppies?

Puppies obviously!



"EVERY DIT STUDENT PAYS THE SAME CAPITATION FEE TO ATTEND BUT NOT EVERY STUDENT RECEIVES THE SAME FACILITIES OR SERVICES. AS THE VP SERVICES AND TRADING I WOULD STRIVE TO ENSURE THAT EACH CAMPUS AND EACH STUDENT, WHETHER INTERNATIONAL, PART-TIME, FULL-TIME, OR MATURE, IS TREATED EQUAL!"

DIT STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 22/23 24/25

Convenor Hustings:

Mountjoy Sq. Hustings:
Wednesday 10th February. Time 1PM
Kevin St. Hustings:
Thursday 11th February. Time 1PM
Bolton St. Hustings:
Monday 15th February. Time 1PM
Aungier St. Hustings:
Tuesday 16th February. Time 1PM
Cathal Brugha St. Hustings:
Wednesday 17th February. Time 1PM
Rathmines Hustings:
Thursday 18th February. Time 1PM



dit students' union
www.ditsu.ie

THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, YOU WILL BE VOTING FOR THE CLASS REP CONVENOR AT THE SAME TIME YOU MAKE YOUR CHOICE FOR THE 3 SABBATICAL POSITIONS. IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW THE CLASS REP CONVENOR IS, IT'S A FELLOW STUDENT WHO IS A PART TIME ELECTED SU OFFICER FOR THE YEAR. THEY WORK UP TO 10 HOURS PER WEEK AND IT IS A PAID POSITION.

In the past, the Convenor was elected by the Class Reps but this year we have opened up the voting to all students. So while there may be just one person running on some sites – you still need to vote yes to their election on the ballot paper or you can vote to Re Open the Nominations and so start the whole race again for that position. So talk to the candidates and check out your options and then vote for the people you want to take over when the 6 current convenors pass the baton in July.

The Class Rep Convenor, does more than look after the Class Reps Meeting for the year – s/he is the link between the Sabbaticals and the site. The Convenor will be helping organize local events and activities so make sure you find out what they're planning for your site next year.

THE CONVENOR HUSTINGS PROVIDE YOU WITH THE CHANCE TO MEET THE CANDIDATES IN PERSON AND TO ASK THEM QUESTIONS.

CHECK OUT THE DATE THAT THE HUSTINGS WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON YOUR SITE, AND GET YOUR QUESTION READY.

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU CLASS REP CONVENOR. [AUNGIER STREET] SIOBHAN ABROOK.

Manifesto for Election:

Background:

Siobhan Abrook is a 2nd year Business and Management. From her very first day in DIT SShe has been involved in all SU campaigns including inductions this year and is the Ents. part time officer for Aungier St. this year.

In her 1st year she was class rep for DT365 and was elected as a Governing Councillor in 2008/2009 and again in 2009/2010. She is also on the Academic and Student Affairs Sub-Committee.

Siobhan is passionate and committed to the Students' Union but most of all to students within it. She wants to improve participation and enhance the good parts of student life and smooth out and address the problems in Aungier st and Temple Bar to make it a brighter and better place for all students.

Aims & Objectives:

Facilities: Aungier st is a brilliant campus but there are problems all over the buildings with broken chairs, projectors, the water fountains not to mention the mess in the Student Union common area! Also Library opening hours are a big problem for students as they have been closing at different times and not staying open long enough. Siobhan intends to drive improvements in Aungier st. And Temple Bar.

Participation: Siobhan wants to improve participation in Aungier st, not only by making class reps more involved and putting on more events, but also involving all students from Aungier st and Temple Bar in all sides of the SU. She would also like to get Mature, Part-Time and International students more involved in the goings on in Aungier st and the Students' Union.

Awareness: Aungier st. has many services available to students provided by DIT such as the medical centre, counselling service and the chaplaincy service and many more. However the Students' Union also provides a vast range of services for students. It is our Students' Union and it is my intention to make sure that all students know what services exist, both from the SU and from DIT.

Reasons for Running:

I want to fix facilities. I want to ensure that everyone knows about the SU and the services it offers. But above all I want to get students, involved. I will do this by getting out there, being active and encouraging people to join in, whether as Class Reps, Governing Councillors or simply being active in the day-to-day goings on of student life – remember the academic side is only a small part of college!

Yours Sincerely,

Siobhan Abrook.



" I'M THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB. I KNOW THE NEEDS OF THE STUDENTS AND I'VE THE DETERMINATION TO CHANGE THINGS AND GET THINGS DONE. I WANT TO MAKE STUDENTS AWARE OF WHAT THEY CAN GET FROM THEIR STUDENTS' UNION AND THEIR REGISTRATION FEE (WE'RE IN A RECESSION AFTER ALL!) "

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

The atmosphere and people! Walk around DIT and you will always know somebody and on the small chance you don't know somebody, people are friendly and will chat and help you out :)

What's the best thing about DIT?

The mess in Aungier St SU area (it is really disgusting at times), all the broken stuff around the place, library opening hours and exams after Christmas! Nobody wants to study during their holidays!

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

The fact that the smaller colleges don't receive the same facilities and services as the bigger ones despite the fact that every student pays the same €1500 capitation fee! Also, the cross-campus communication and perhaps the lack of student bar!

World Peace or The Puppies?

Surely there would be no world peace without puppies?!



CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: **SU CLASS REP CONVENOR. [AUNGIER STREET]** **DARREN BATES**

Manifesto for Election:

Aims & Objectives:

The campaign is going to centre around THREE central themes; Ents, Academics and Involvement.

Ents:

- The increased level of free ON SITE Entertainments during lunch hours!
- This not only provides a platform for DIT's countless bands, but also DJ's, societies and can immediately increase SU involvement and costs nothing!
- Music during lunch: While investigating the feasibility of a jukebox, I promise to provide music during lunch, and it can be as simple as putting an iPod into a speaker. Again it costs nothing and attracts attention to the union and you could be hearing anything from The Beatles to Bon Jovi!
- As well as on site gigs, we need more cheap DITSU off site ents. Nothing stopping us from making the Night at the Dogs a regular night to promote campaigns!

Academics:

- THE LIBRARY!! Your library is the key to your success, and it needs its opening hours protected. A vote for Darren Bates is a vote for the continued protection of your opening hours for every Aungier Street and Temple Bar student!
- A vote for Bates is a vote for supporting your success. I promise a full anti bullying campaign for Aungier Street, and will fully enact DITSU's and DIT's zero tolerance anti-harassment policies, whether from student or staff.

- Quality Assurance: if elected Convenor I'll make sure your lecturers are assessed by making sure EVERY student know that their lecturers can be judged and will try make the process of Quality Assurance more student centred!

Involvement

- A vote for Bates is a vote for Aungier Street's tradition of full class REP recruitment. No stone will be left unturned!!
- Dramatically positive changes in student involvement! Again I'll be thorough at making sure that Aungier Street and Temple Bar becomes a union powerhouse and that we take our rightful position as most active campus in DIT!
- Carry out a review of the Aungier Street campaigns and see what I'll improve on if elected for next year with the new team in September!

Conclusion:

I hope you now see that I'm the best person for the job at hand. In these recessionary times Aungier Street and Temple Bar need a leader who is willing and able to do the tough work that I have no doubt will be dealt in 2010 and 2011. Darren Bates is the man that will make Aungier Street and Temple Bar look to their futures with hope knowing I'll make at least one year of their lives in college the best one ever.

Yours Sincerely,

Darren Bates.

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: **SU CLASS REP CONVENOR. [AUNGIER STREET]** **CONOR THOMPSON.**

Manifesto for Election:

Aims & Objectives:

Aungier Street needs a Class Rep Convenor that represents every single student on our site, not just those politically active. As class reps, I believe it is our duty to encourage our classes to come forward with problems, demands and suggestions - too many students in our college are struggling with a wide range of issues without ever popping down the student union, and I will give my all to make these numbers dwindle.

If elected, I promise to increase two-way communication between our whole student body and their union; being a constant, visible presence on the campus and in the classrooms. I will organise end of year awards for the students most involved in clubs, societies, charities and for the volunteers at our events. Also, working with my Ents Officer and Clubs & Societies Officer, will deliver on campus events on a weekly basis, at the very least.

Aungier Street needs their class reps to organise class parties - early and frequently. A class that parties together sticks together, and class reps should aim to bring their classes together by organising nights out on a continual, monthly basis. Unfortunately, the seminar on organising class parties at Class Rep Training is insufficient.

If elected, I will run a CRM early in our first semester dedicated to helping class reps learn how to hold successful parties.

Aungier Street needs to challenge the perception that it is difficult to raise money here on our site. In these lean times, we need a Convenor who is active and experienced with raising money for charity to organise well run and successful events. I am an active fund raiser for our current RAG Charity, Crumlin's Children's

Hospital, both through the student's union and outside university life. In this work, I've learned the best way to raise money is to keep the events not only continuous, but also unique.

If elected, I will deliver a wide range of events aimed to raise money for our chosen charity throughout the year, not just surrounding RAG week.

Aungier Street needs to reverse the culture of constant and unthinking littering on our site. We must continue the fight to turn this around, and to leave us with a site we can once again be proud of.

If elected, I will push this belief through innovative poster campaigns, weekly updates and communication with my Environmental Officer, and leading by example in regards to student self policing.

Conclusion:

Aungier Street needs meaningful change. Aungier Street needs a strong voice. Aungier Street needs Conor Thompson as Class Rep Convenor.

Yours Sincerely,

Conor Thompson.

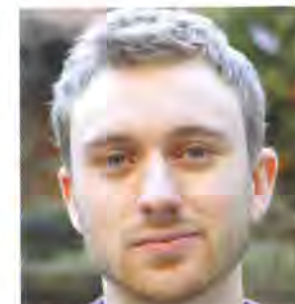
we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

I want to say Dark Chocolate HobNob, but that sounds a bit dirty. I'll go for a Wagon Wheel - Thick and simple, yet reliable, and rarely seen outside football stadia. Sounds about right.

What's the best thing about DIT?

Without wanting to sound like a lickarse, it's got to be the students. In my experience, a lot less clique-y and generally a lot friendlier than our UCD and Trinity counterparts. Smaller classes certainly helps with this, it's unusual to find a DIT



" WITH 4 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN STUDENT POLITICS, I BELIEVE I AM THE STRONG VOICE NEEDED FOR AUNGIER STREET - TO CONTINUE OUR FIGHT TO CLEAN UP OUR CAMPUS, TO PUSH FOR THE DESPERATELY-NEEDED REPAIR OF OUR CLASSROOMS, AND TO IMPROVE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN ALL NON-ACADEMIC UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS "

student that "doesn't really know anybody in college". There's classes full of these unfortunate souls in other Dublin based universities.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

This year, the cutbacks have of course been very frustrating and disruptive. We as students deserve, and pay for, much better. I would also love to see more social and democratic participation from students, something I'm determined to try to improve if elected as Class Rep Convenor.

World Peace or The Puppies?

We've (just about) survived 200,000 years without World Peace, but a world without 'Funky Y2C' is not something I'm willing to contemplate. The Puppies win out, as per usual.



CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU CLASS REP CONVENOR. [BOLTON STREET] SUZANN TUTTY

Manifesto for Election:

Reasons for Running:

The reason why I am running for election is as follows:

- Elect Class Reps for all full and part-time students so that they are represented on their Programme Committee
- Build on the relationships between Departments, Programme Chairs, Lecturers and Tutors.
- Ensure all students are represented on their Programme Committee's
- Push out Q6 forms for quality assurance
- Increase participation with the Annex Sites - Linen Hall and Beresford Street
- Increase the number of on stage events
- Promote the Students Union so students are fully aware of what we can do for YOU

These are the reasons I am running for election, these are the issues I want to change, and this is what I want to do for you. The points identified are the things I want to improve, change and build on. This is what needs to be done to improve participation within the college and between lecturers and students.

Aims & Objectives:

Having held the position of Convenor since March 2009, I know what is possible to do and all the items listed are achievable. There are many ways in which these can be implemented and I feel I have the ability to do so, and the know how to do it. Enthusiasm is the way forward and that I have, as well as passion. This is what I want to do, this is how I want to

change Bolton Street for the better and this is how I plan on doing so:

Programme Committee and Q6 Forms:

- Make students and lecturers aware of these items
- Student input is vital

Apprentices:

- Incorporate YOU into the overall student body and give an induction evening the first week of every term
- Make you aware of what we can do for YOU, its YOUR Union too

Students Union:

- It's YOUR union, tell me what YOU want to see happening
- Do you want to know what the Students' Union does for you? GET INVOLVED and make sure you do

Students: Full and Part-time:

- The students are the college, so your input is important

Conclusion:

If you want a strong voice, then I am the person for the job. I have showed nothing but passion and enthusiasm in the last year as your current Convenor and I promise this will be carried forward. I will make these changes happen and I will make your voice heard. I will represent YOU.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for reading the objectives which will be fulfilled when I get elected.

Small Girl, Big Solutions

Yours Sincerely,

Suzann Tutty.

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU CLASS REP CONVENOR. [CATHAL BRUGHA ST.] SEONA DUNNE.

Manifesto for Election:

Reasons for Running:

One of the main reasons why I want to run for Convenor is to create more awareness of the SU and the services such as the Student Assistance Fund and to make sure that the Campaigns run throughout the year are effectively rolled out to you, the Cathal Brugha St students. I have been heavily involved in the Students Union since I walked into DIT from day one.

Throughout the first two years of my studies at DIT, I have seen what works effectively and what doesn't. I want Cathal Brugha St to maintain the Great Spirit it has and enhance it further if possible, I want to hold on to that friendly and welcoming atmosphere and encourage an open door feel to it. From talking with some students, it has come across that the SU can have a "clique" feel to it, I want to try and eradicate that.

Aims & Objectives:

- I want to increase awareness of the role of the SU in Cathal Brugha St shall achieve this by utilising the notice board space effectively in the corridor and on the 4th floor, where the computer rooms are. I also want to work closely with the incoming Vice President for Services and Trading to establish notice board space in the canteen. I feel by doing this it will help create awareness of events and services the SU offers.
- By increasing awareness, I want to promote student activities in a student environment. By working with your LPIT (Local Programme Implementation Team) to hold local events such as the ever popular jam-

ming sessions. Also having a designated night such as every Thursday in the Living Room Pub where classes could hold class parties and with the Vice President Services and Trading to get certain offers for them.

- I want to make most of your LPIT. Finance I believe is one of the major things on students mind when coming to college. In the second semester there is a finance week, giving students tips on how to budget and spend wisely. By liaising with the LPIT I want to get offers in just for Cathal Brugha Street students e.g. men's hair cuts for €5, deals in the living room pub, lunch deals in the local coffee shops and shops such as Centra.

- I hope to revamp the SU. I would achieve this by making an application to the DITSU Ltd CEO and the Cathal Brugha St buildings manager, to use either the student development fund or the social cultural fund to do this.

Conclusion:

By doing all of the above I want to show that the SU is here for everybody and that everyone is part and can be part of it.

Yours Sincerely,

Seona Dunne.



"I WOULD LOVE YOU TO VOTE FOR ME AS I AM A FRIENDLY AND APPROACHABLE PERSON WHO IS COMMITTED TO AND VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE SU. I WANT TO ENHANCE THE ON-SITE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SU BY LIAISING WITH THE STUDENTS AND THE SABBATICAL OFFICERS TO MAKE THE CBST COLLEGE EXPERIENCE THE BEST IT CAN BE."

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

Mmmm I think I would be Kimberley Elite!

What's the best thing about DIT?

The buzz and that everyone knows everyone its a small little world.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

The lack of bog roll (toilet roll, I'm a lady I have to be polite) in Bolton Street and the Do It Tomorrow attitude that takes about a week to get something done!!

World Peace or The Puppies?

The puppies of course...

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

I would have to be a custard cream because it has a hard exterior but a heart of gold!!! I also really like custard creams!!!

What's the best thing about DIT?

The atmosphere definitely!!!! The ability to walk down the corridor and recognise people!

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

Probably the communication barrier between DIT and us the students. Not been told that a lecture or a lab is cancelled for whatever reason in advance!!! Now that is very annoying!!

World Peace or The Puppies?

Hmmmm...can I say both????



CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU CLASS REP CONVENOR. [KEVIN STREET] GRAHAM HAYES.

Manifesto for Election:

Background:

Graham Hayes is a 2nd year computing student in DIT Kevin Street. He is the current convenor for Kevin Street, and was one of the people to make the convenor elections free and open. He stands on a platform of openness, transparency and involvement.

the closed door bartering that goes on between USI and the unions.

I am open to suggestions from anyone, so if you have an idea, contact me!

Yours Sincerely,

Graham Hayes

Why Vote for Graham:

I believe in getting more people involved in the DIT, Clubs and Socs, and the SU. The only way to do that is to have a transparent system, and maintain our open door policy. Having the convenor elections open like this is a great step to opening up the elections to everybody.

So far this year I have achieved:

- Electing a great group of class reps
- Running (what I think are) successful class rep meetings
- Have a full democratic complement in Kevin Street (A first in quite a few years)

What Can I Do For You:

I think that I can offer a well rounded person, who has the experience at the job, and is known by staff in and out of the union. We all pay to go to college, and I think that we deserve the best equipment and facilities in DIT. In DIT we need to be more militant in our status with the college, and stop pandering to the staff of DIT.

On a national level, I believe that the students union movement has gained some momentum, and we need to keep it going this way, to ensure that everyone both current and future students have education as a right, not a privilege. I am an advocate for more protests to be run, and to stop

"YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR ME BECAUSE I HAVE THE EXPERIENCE AND THE DRIVE TO MAKE KEVIN STREET THE BEST CAMPUS IN DIT, AND IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, I AM VERY APPROACHABLE."

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

Because between 2 layers of crispy biscuit the is a soft chocolate center :)

What's the best thing about DIT?

The sense of craic around the place, and the fact that all your lecturer will know your name by the end of the year.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

The fact we are so spread out across the city...

World Peace or The Puppies?

And lastly its got to be world peace.... we can get more puppies...

CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU CLASS REP CONVENOR. [MOUNTJOY SQUARE] KIERAN KEANE.

Manifesto for Election:

Background:

Hello all u amazing Mountjoy Sq and Portland Row students!

Im Kieran, The one with the big hair and unnecessary amount of piercings thats usually strolling around the student union.

Im third year in interior and furniture design. Ive been in DIT 7 years, and loving every year of it!

Why Vote for Kieran:

7 years of college is meaning 7 years of union experience, after starting in Kevin St in 2003 i was elected class rep Convenor at the end of my first year. i kept that position for two years 04/05, 05/06.

Starting in mountjoy sq in 2007, I immediately went straight back to union life, class rep, governing councillor, ents officer, chair of services & trading sub committee, the usual fun and games! ive picked up a lot of good ideas and suggestions from students, i know what works in mountjoy and what doesnt, i want to make next year a year to remember, so vote Kieran Keane for class rep convenor and prepare for an awesome 2010 and 2011!

Aims & Objectives:

- To give 100% to the students of mountjoy sq and portland row
- Deal with all matters arising in an efficient and confidential manner
- Increase the amount of onsite entertainment
- Ensure increased inclusion of Portland row for all onsite ents
- Utilise the facilities of portland row for larger local events

- Maintain the high standards set down by the current Convenor
- Increase local activity in the SU
- Most importantly have fun and make it a year to remember

Yours Sincerely,

Kieran Keane.

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

ooh a deep question, hmmm it wud hav to be a large double choc chip cookie, rich and flavoursome a bit crumbly round the edges, and also after one taste, ill go straight to your hips! :) (okay i realise that just sounded like a bad "take me out" answer, no likey no likey!!)

And i think if i had to go out wit a biscuit, it wud be a kimberly, because it has the same name as the pink power ranger!! she was awesome!!!

What's the best thing about DIT?

the best thing about DIT is going to hav to be the students, they now how to have fun, theyre not shy, theyre not stuck up their own holes like some colleges i can mention! ("cough" trinity "cough" UCD "cough") and a DIT night out are some of the best nights out you can have.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STAFF OF DIT!!!!!! how many times hav u had classes cancelled witout notice, rooms double booked, results not given, overlapping of assignments, lecturers saying different things on the same subject!! ever hear of emailing each other???? not that hard!!!

World Peace or The Puppies?

Its going to have to be the puppies! after a drunk night u can always blame the dog for pissing on the sitting room floor!

Plus how boring wud things be wit world peace!! i dont want to put Charlie Bird and Ross Kemp out of work!!! and what about ann doyle??? wont sumone please think about ann doyle!!!



"YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR ME BECAUSE I'VE PICKED UP A LOT OF GOOD IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM STUDENTS, I KNOW WHAT WORKS IN MOUNTJOY AND WHAT DOESNT, I WANT TO MAKE NEXT YEAR A YEAR TO REMEMBER, SO VOTE KIERAN KEANE FOR CLASS REP CONVENOR AND PREPARE FOR AN AWESOME 2010 AND 2011!"



CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR: SU CLASS REP CONVENOR. [RATHMINES] GARETH WALKER-AYERS.

Manifesto for Election:

Background:

There are a number of key issues I would like to see addressed on the Rathmines campus.

There are a number of repairs on the campus that require attention. The TV and DVD player in the canteen need attention, as does the pool table, which is simply not being used due to a number of faults.

The computers in the canteen are prone to repeatedly breaking down, and require a number of software upgrades, particularly the internet browsers. The computers in the library also require software upgrades. The wireless access signal in the canteen has become weaker and unreliable, and now appears only to work in select pockets of the canteen with some devices, so this requires immediate looking into.

There is a problem with Rathmines College of Further Education students using our canteen at lunchtime. This year it has become particularly problematic, with overcrowding in the canteen. There is no problem as far as I am aware with the students themselves, it is simply a matter of spacing. The canteen cannot accommodate the numbers that have been using the space, and it can be a very uncomfortable environment at times. I would seek a resolution which benefits both DIT and Rathmines College students, but my priority must be the welfare of DIT students.

There has been an issue in Rathmines, as I am sure there is in other small campus's, of DITSU event ticket distribution. It is only fair that a proportional amount of tickets are allotted to Rathmines, as opposed to having to request tickets from other SU offices when asked for them by students.

Due to the success of previous Rathmines-based events, the

organisation of more of such events is very important. The need to surpass any events held previously will only serve to drive us to have many more of these great nights out together. These events are important and useful to try and dissolve the social barrier between the music and drama students.

New methods of communication will make it easier to let students know what is happening, both on their campus, and within DITSU. The potential of Facebook, Twitter, Boards, ie, and, when fully integrated, Google Wave, cannot be ignored as useful tools in keeping students informed of everything that's going on in their college, and I fully intend to implement and promote every available course of communication.

There are a number of issues in the college, such as fixtures needing attention, broken windows, lighting issues etc., and all of these are to be looked into ASAP.

As many Rathmines students will have noticed, a new swimming pool has been constructed next-door, and all indications say it will be open soon. As to the accessibility of the public to the pool, nobody is sure what the situation will be when it opens, however I fully intend to get on to the managers of the building to see if it may be possible to arrange some sort of beneficial agreement.

Conclusion:

The promise I can make is that anything that you don't think is fair or right within the college, I will be on your side. Tell me what you want sorted, and I'll do my best to sort it. Any time of the day or night, I'm literally ten minutes up the road.

Yours Sincerely,

Gareth Walker-Ayers.

"SO FAR I HAVE ENJOYED BEING THE CONVENOR IN BOLTON STREET AND I THINK BY DOING A SECOND YEAR I CAN MAKE SOME IMPROVEMENTS ON THE YEAR THAT PAST. I WANT TO BOOST THE ATMOSPHERE AND MAKE IT MORE ENJOYABLE FOR ALL... I'M ALL FOR HAVING FUN BUT ALSO GETTING STUFF DONE!!"

we ask the important questions, so you don't have to:

If you were a biscuit, what biscuit would you be?

Definitely a Mikado! Both musical and sweet!

What's the best thing about DIT?

I know it's the obvious and overplayed answer, but the students. The people I've met throughout DIT are some of the most enthusiastic and committed people I've ever met. You couldn't ask for more respectful bunch of people.

What's your biggest gripe about DIT?

I think it's important to remember the smaller DIT faculties. Too often do the lesser populated campus's get overlooked, and it's so important that nobody feels alienated. We are all equal as DIT students, and we need to ensure that all students know that.

World Peace or The Puppies?

Well, I think I could probably live without the 90's Miami Bass grooves of The Puppies, so it would have to be world peace. Please note that I would never condone the harm of any animal or hip-hop duo!



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Election Schedule

Convenor Hustings: This is where the candidates deliver their manifestos in person and the student body has the opportunity to question the candidates.

Mountjoy Sq. Hustings: **Wednesday 10th February. Time 1PM**

Kevin St. Hustings: **Thursday 11th February. Time 1PM**

Bolton St. Hustings: **Monday 15th February. Time 1PM**

Aungier St. Hustings: **Tuesday 16th February. Time 1PM**

Cathal Brugha St. Hustings: **Wednesday 17th February. Time 1PM**

Rathmines Hustings: **Thursday 18th February. Time 1PM**

Sabbatical Hustings: This is where the candidates deliver their manifestos in person and the student body has the opportunity to question the candidates.

Rathmines Hustings: **Thursday 11th February. Time 1PM**

Aungier St. Hustings: **Monday 15th February. Time 1PM**

Kevin St. Hustings: **Tuesday 16th February. Time 1PM**

Mountjoy Sq. Hustings: **Wednesday 17th February. Time 1PM**

Cathal Brugha St. Hustings: **Thursday 18th February. Time 1PM**

Bolton St. Hustings: **Monday 22nd February. Time 1PM**

DITSU & USI Hustings: **Monday 22nd February. Gleeson Hall, Kevin St.**

Presidential Debate: Your chance to hear the Presidential candidates debate campaign issues.

DIT Aungier St. [Room 5-050]: **Thursday 18th February. 6PM**

Voting: The all-important voting. There will be designated polling station on your site and this is where you cast your vote.

Monday 22nd February: **Temple Bar & Portland Row. 10PM. to 4PM**

Tuesday 23rd February: **All Stations* 8.30 AM to 8.30 PM***

Wednesday 24th February: **All Stations* 8.30 AM to 8.30 PM***

Thursday 25th February: **All Stations* 9.00 AM to 11 AM**

* All Stations: Aungier Street, Bolton Street, Cathal Brugha Street, Kevin Street, Mountjoy Square. & Rathmines.

* Rathmines: The polls in Rathmines will operate from 9.00a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

Results: The count is carried out live in public, so feel free to pop along and see democracy in action.

The Election Count: **Thursday 25th February 2010 at 2p.m. Bolton St.**